Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-90-201 *17 October 1990*

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Cuba

Rumored Arrests of High Officials Reported

LD1710103390 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0958 GMT 17 Oct 90

["Pool" item]

[Text] Havana, October 17 (TANJUG)—The Cuban leadership has not commented rumors that a number of high-ranking state and party officials have been arrested for allegedly disagreeing with the solutions to the political and economic problems of the country.

As learned earlier this week, the officials allegedly placed under house arrest are close collaborators to President Fidel Castro, including Politburo members Juan Almeida, Jorge Risquet and Julio Camacho. Almeida and Risquet, however, yesterday attended a funeral of a Cuban official.

Rumors about alleged conflicts in the Cuban leadership are a new phenomenon in the complex situation in this Caribbean country. There have been no dissonant discussions in the leadership, nor any signs of revolt within it which would justify such rumors.

In one of his latest speeches, Cuban leader Fidel Castro only said that there were individuals who wanted to abandon the revolution, but did not mention any names.

Workers Federation Secretariat Holds Meeting

FL1610213090 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2047 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] The correct application of cadre policies, so that they benefit work-related activities, was one of the points discussed during the meeting of the Cuban Workers Federation [CTC] National Secretariat held in this capital today. Another subject was the need to change and correctly apply the norms to encourage workers during the CTC socialist emulation and not be inflexible.

The members of the CTC National Secretariat also supported the idea of fighting social deformations, battles which the masses have to wage. This should be done as a response to the call made by the top leadership of the party to not tolerate poor work. A cooperation document was signed between the National Association of Cuban Economists and the CTC. This will help provide economic training to workers.

DPRK Official Places Wreath at Marti Monument

FL1710021790 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Comrade Kim Tal-hyon, first vice premier and foreign trade minister of the DPRK, placed a floral wreath at the foot of the monument to our national hero, Jose Marti, at the Revolution Square this morning. During the solemn ceremony, he was accompanied by Ricardo Cabrisas, our country's foreign trade minister. The Korean delegation is participating in the 14th session of the consultation commission for economic and scientific-technical cooperation between Cuba and Korea. The behavior of economic cooperation and bilateral trade for the this year and the outlook for 1991 are being analyzed in the meeting. The high-level Korean delegation will hold talks with Cuban party and government leaders. Cooperation protocols between our two countries are scheduled to be signed.

Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Tours Isle of Youth

FL1710020090 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Zimbabwe is a southern African country with little over 7 million inhabitants. Its foreign minister, Dr. Nathan Shamuyarira, is touring the Isle of Youth at this time. The Modelo Prison, where Fidel and other Moncada Barracks attackers were imprisoned, was the first place visited by the Zimbabwean foreign minister. He received a detailed briefing on the functioning of the former prison now turned into a national museum.

The technology used, the cost of production, and the quality of the fruit was one of the things that interested Dr. Shamuyarira the most at the Alexis Rodriguez export grapefruit packing center. He also visited the Nelson Machado marble plant, an industry that is acquiring international prestige. The Zimbabwean foreign minister assessed the current relations between his country and Cuba.

[Begin Shamuyarira recording, in English with simultaneous Spanish translation] Relations between the two countries are very good at this time. There is a great understanding between Presidents Castro and Mugabe. There is also a good understanding between our peoples, and we have strong bonds between us. [end recording]

At the time this report was being prepared, the Zimbabwean foreign minister was meeting with the over 1,000 scholarship holders from his country who are currently studying to obtain a bachelor's degree in education on the island.

Politburo Members Attend Rodriguez Cruz Funeral

FL1610215790 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] A deep-felt eulogy was given this morning at the funeral of Rene Rodriguez Cruz, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples, who died on Monday. When Central Committee member Jorge Enrique Mendoza said farewell to the courageous revolutionary, he recalled that Rodriguez Cruz had dedicated his entire life to the fatherland, the revolution, and socialism.

After evoking Rodriguez Cruz' long history at the service of national ideals and his cult to friendship in the style of Che [Guevara] and Camilo [Cienfuegos], the speaker

noted the late man's faithfulness to Fidel and Raul and Marxist-Leninist principles. Together with relatives, the funeral was presided over by Juan Almeida, Vilma Espin, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Armando Hart, and Jorge Risquet, all members of the party's Politburo.

Barbados

Radio, Television Workers Strike Enters 2d Day

FL1610200090 Bridgetown CANA in English 1845 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Oct 16, CANA—A wildcat strike by workers of Barbados' state-owned radio and television company entered the second day on Tuesday, disrupting the operations of most departments including News and Current Affairs.

The Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) employees walked off the job on Monday to protest protracted contract negotiations with management. Besides pay increases, the workers are seeking medical benefits and a pension plan. Contract talks between CBC management and the Barbados Workers Union (BWU) have been going on for 16 months.

"We will be here until the cows come home," said a spokesman for the workers, who are picketing the entrance of the CBC compound in the Pine, about two miles outside Bridgetown.

The spokesman said the strike was not santioned by the BWU leadership but represented an "effort of solidarity by the workers to give support to each other in order to reach a proper settlememt which is long overdue." He said management had called in the police, and the protesters had been locked out of the compound. The workers denied management's allegations of blocking access to people entering CBC. Management officials were not immediately available for comment.

CBC operates two radio stations—900 AM and Liberty FM—as well as Barbados' lone television service.

The Barbados Association of Journalists (BAJ), in a statement, urged a speedy resolution of the impasse "in the interest of media relations and the importance of state-owned media to national development. We in the BAJ only too well understand the nature of the struggle for better pay and working conditions for media practitioners," said the statement. It is against this background that we sympathise with our colleagues in this moment of distress in seeking justified working conditions and salaries."

Dominican Republic

Balaguer Issues Decree on Status of Haitians

FL1610170190 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] President Joaquin Balaguer has authorized the General Directorate for Immigration to regularize as soon as possible the presence in this country of all Haitian citizens by setting their status as immigrants with temporary residence permits or day laborers for a fixed period. The provisions contained in Decree No. 417-70 state that in particular, the Immigration Directorate must regularize the Haitian citizens who work as laborers in the planting, cultivation, cutting, and transportation of sugarcane, as well as those working in the mills, factories, and offices of the sugar centers.

The decree, in which President Joaquin Balaguer stresses the country's interest in regularizing the status of Haitian citizens, includes having the persons or companies who employ them report this to the authorities. The provisions state that if this is not done, these persons or companies may face criminal charges. Likewise, the president sets forth that the Secretariat of State for Labor will establish special representatives at all sugar centers to, among other duties, draw up work contracts between the Haitian citizens and the companies where they work. Article 4 establishes that the Secretariat of Labor will report back to the Office of the President and the International Labor Organization at regular intervals on compliance with the above provisions.

Price Increases for Some Basic Goods Revoked

FL1610172590 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] The new director of the National Institute for Price Stabilization [Inespre] has revoked the price increases which had been decreed by former Director Frank Jorge Elias for several products this organization markets. In implementing the idea, Rafael Augusto Collado said that only Inespre is authorized to set the prices for basic necessities. The Inespre director stated that products such as powdered milk, pinto beans, rice, and sugar, whose prices had been raised will now be sold at their former prices.

Haiti

PDCH Candidate Silvio Claude Criticizes CEP

FL1610192090 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Reverend Sylvio C. Claude, leader of the Haitian Christian Democratic Party [PDCH] has issued a statement saying that if the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] decides to stand in his way and prevent

him from winning the forthcoming elections, he will show his claws and do what the macoutes did on 29 November 1987.

As the presidential candidate of the PDCH, Reverend Claude is angry about some articles of the electoral law which require, according to him, a number of formalities over which the CEP has no jurisdiction. [passage omitted]

Rev. Claude accuses CEP members of plotting against him and his PDCH. According to Rev. Claude, members of the Communal Electoral Bureaus and members of the Departmental Electoral Bureaus appear to have received orders from their superiors to prevent the PDCH members, by fair means or foul, from registering as candidates. [passage omitted]

In spite of the crooked wheelings and dealings and the low blows dealt by the CEP, Rev. Sylvio Claude is certain he will win the 16 December elections because it is God's will. If the results of the elections do not confirm that Sylvio C. Claude has been elected president, the CEP members will have to explain why, and the whole country will have to pay the consequences. We are going to have you listen to the PDCH leader, Rev. Sylvio C. Claude, who made the following statements last Saturday while we were here in Radio Nationale:

[Begin Rev. Claude recording] [passage omitted] I said that I would not protest because I know that whatever they [the CEP] might do, whatever their crooked wheelings and dealings—I am repeating it, and I will repeat it again—they cannot prevent me from becoming head of state. This is something God wants. It is quite evident, and nobody can prevent it. On the contrary, if the results of the elections are published and Sylvio C. Claude is not president, I will challenge them. Not only will they be in trouble, but the country will also be turned upside down. [end recording]

This morning Rev. Claude called us again to make further statements. He accuses the CEP of crooked wheelings and dealings meant to disrupt the forthcoming elections. Rev. Claude even says that electoral cards are being sold in the streets and many people have registered a number of times.

Rev. Claude declared that the current CEP is working for Victor Benoit, of the National Congress of Democratic Movements [Victor Benoit is the presidential candidate of National Front For Change and Democracy] the same way they did for lawyer Gerard Gourgue [former president of the Haitian League for Human Rights and presidential candidate of National Front for Concerted Action in 1987]. He warns that these people will be in big trouble with him if he again fails to be elected president of Haiti in the 16 December elections. Rev. Claude made these statements this morning by telephone on Radio Nationale of Haiti. [passage omitted]

Trinidad and Tobago

Newspaper Criticizes Robinson for Coup Statements

FL1610200190 Bridgetown CANA in English 1935 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Oct 16, CANA—The Trinidad EXPRESS on Tuesday criticised Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson over comments he made in Jamaica linking the opposition People's National Movement (PNM) to the recent coup attempt here.

The paper, in an editorial, called Robinson's statement "ill-advised" and said it could widen the credibility gap between himself and the population which, the paper added, had grown increasingly weary of his tone of political hate and bitterness.

The EXPRESS said Robinson could not make "tenuous connections unsubtantiated by firm evidence." The prime minister's latest "fusillade" was a "most serious one," the paper added, since it was tantamount to tarring the PNM with the brush of treason.

The paper suggested the comments might backfire on Robinson and advised the prime minister to keep his own counsel if he does not have evidence to go public with his charges.

El Salvador

Cristiani on FMLN Dialogue, Gorbachev's Award

PA1710043790 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 2128 GMT 16 Oct 90

[News conference by President Alfredo Cristiani with local reporters and unidentified moderator at the Presidency in San Salvador—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Reporter] Mr. President, you are probably going to say that we are dwelling on the same issue, but our job is to go to the streets and look for news. The Salvadoran defense minister made some statements recently, and he mentioned certain plans of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] to conduct another offensive tomorrow, 17 October, or on 4 November. The Salvadoran people are suffering a psychosis. What is being done about all this? Is the dialogue real? Will the two parties involved hold the next scheduled meeting? What is the government planning to do? This is the first question. My second question is: What do you think about this year's Nobel peace prize being bestowed upon Mikhail Gorbachev?

[Cristiani] First, the comments on a possible offensive should not be taken as a surprise. We all know that the FMLN has been threatening to carry out an offensive for some time now. In fact, the FMLN has been voicing these threats almost since the beginning of the peace process.

We are constantly receiving reports on certain movements that could mean that the FMLN continues to prepare for an eventual escalation of violence. Obviously, we are responsible for foreseeing and preventing such an action. We are responsible for adopting the necessary measures to try to prevent the destruction and harm that may result, because an FMLN offensive.... [changes thought] As you said, some say the offensive will come tomorrow, others say on 4 November, and others say that it will not be carried out until after the upcoming round of talks is held. All this information is uncertain. Only the FMLN knows the truth, if it intends to again carry out such an irrational action—and it is irrational, because we are in the middle of a peace process. The FMLN itself has always said that it is willing to seek a negotiated solution to the conflict through dialogue, and today we are confirming that this is not so. We must, therefore, adopt all the necessary preventive measures to face such a situation.

We keep getting the same reports. The FMLN continues to say that it will launch a new offensive; this is nothing new. This did not start last weekend. We continue to hear the same reports we have been receiving for some time now.

As for your second question, I believe the entire world is seeking peace. Everyone is working for world peace. I believe the attitude adopted by the Soviet Union recently has benefited [three-second break in reception] this new attitude of the Soviet Union. I believe that this will [three-second break in reception] at stake and both are making efforts to find ways to prevent a world war. There are other actions that have also contributed toward resolving other specific problems.

Perhaps there is something special about Mr. Gorbachev's case. He allowed the Soviet Union to [word indistinct] as it did in the past. What was special in Gorbachev's case is the events in East Europe. I am sure you recall the Soviet invasion of Poland and other countries that it wanted to control through its totalitarian dictatorship. On this occasion, the Soviet Union allowed the Eastern European countries to seek their own futures through the will of the people. That is something very special and important and, I believe, deserving of the prize, even though it is something that countries should normally do. Countries should let other countries choose their own futures. Taking into account the Soviet Union's past, the fact that it did not try to influence the Eastern European countries' decisions this time is beneficial to the world. I believe the judges found in Gorbachev a person who has truly contributed toward world peace. Gorbachev's contribution to world peace is unquestionable.

[Moderator] (Gabriela Melgar) of [word indistinct].

[(Melgar)] Mr. President, I have two questions. One concerns the dialogue. I would like to know if any progress has been made toward implementing the new measures to ease the dialogue. I am referring to the measures you submitted to the UN secretary general, which he was to present to the FMLN. Do you have anything new on this? Can you tell me, even if only superficially, what [words indistinct] taken? My second question. Is it true that the government is considering increasing the number of deputies to 104. It is rumored that it [words indistinct], but it is not included in the 1991 general budget?

[Cristiani] In general terms [words indistinct] the government will attend the next round of negotiations. We cannot speak for the FMLN, but we will certainly go. We continue to believe that dialogue is the best way to find solutions to our problems. I [word indistinct] tell you that we had previously set 4 November as the date [for the next round of talks].

Apart from this, on 15 October, I had the opportunity to speak with Alvaro de Soto [UN mediator] over the telephone. He told me that this week he would talk to the FMLN representatives about the possibility of getting the process to advance in a more dynamic manner. He said that he would probably bring some sort of an answer by the end of this week or the beginning of next week. So, in this sense, there is nothing concrete as of now.

Now, for your last question. When we invited political parties to participate in the interparty commission, we said that the government would support all the agreements reached by consensus in this organization. We also said we would not oppose anything they agreed

upon by consensus. Moreover, if [word indistinct] of the Inter-Party Commission reached the conclusion at a later date that its initial agreement should be reviewed, the commission would have to do so itself. This action would not come from the government. Thus, we will respect our initial commitment. We will support the agreement [to increase deputies in the Legislative Assembly] if the interparty commission maintains its consensus on the matter. Our commitment is to support the consensus reached by the commission. On this subject, I believe we should also study the matter from another angle. They also had.... [changes thought] The increase in the number of deputies was going to take place anyway because of our participation in the Central American Parliament. The plan requires 20 additional deputies. I believe, or according to what I understand, the plan includes deputies for the National Assembly and for the Central American Parliament. I still have not received the interparty commission's official agreement. I have only received verbal communication of the agreement during a meeting held here. I understand, however, that this is one of the agreements. Thus, we would not incur excessive expenses as [words indistinct].

I also understand that the increase in the number of deputies was requested by the small parties. These parties want to reduce the number of votes required to be a deputy. This action would give them more opportunities to have a representative chosen and to participate in the Legislative Assembly in larger numbers. If the Assembly has more seats, small parties would have a greater chance to participate. I believe this is healthy. We do not have to go to the other extreme either, due to the circumstances, but the country would benefit if there are more representatives from the smaller parties in the Legislative Assembly.

[Moderator] [Word indistinct] Gomez.

[Gomez] [Words indistinct] two questions. Do you really believe that an agreement will be reached during the next meeting, as Justice Minister Oscar Santamaria has stated? The second question relates to the government's position [words indistinct] concerning the U.S. congressional proposal to cut 60 percent of U.S. aid to the country and [word indistinct] it to a cease-fire by the guerrilla.

[Cristiani] First, we can only talk about the government's disposition in the dialogue process. We cannot speak for the FMLN. For our part, we go to all these meetings with the intention of reaching agreements. I believe agreements can be reached. It will depend on the FMLN's attitude if we do or do not reach them. The will and flexibility to reach an agreement exist and will continue in this next meeting. We hope that the work done by the mediator to make these talks go more smoothly will be successful. We can reach agreements during the next round to have more [word indistinct] if the FMLN does not show the intransigence it has shown in the past two meetings in Costa Rica.

What was the other question?

[Gomez] [Words indistinct].

[Cristiani] Oh yes. I do not really understand why the guerrillas are against ending the violence and the destruction in the country. Frankly, I do not believe there is any country in the world or any person in the country who has said that it is necessary for the violence to continue. On the contrary. What everyone says is that continued violence is unjustifiable amid a serious process in which commitments being made are under the auspices of the UN secretary general. This means that the United Nations virtually guarantees the process. We believe this is the correct solution to the conflict.

We constantly hear the FMLN saying that it wants a dialogue and that it wants to end the conflict through negotiations. The mechanism for negotiations is there now, and we do not see any justification for the continued violence in our country. I do not think, therefore, there is any reason for the country to still be deprived of a cease-fire or the end of the armed confrontation, or whatever it is called. The proposal we presented at the United Nations is still valid. We are waiting for the FMLN to accept it. In that way, we would spare the Salvadoran people a great deal of suffering.

[Moderator] [Name indistinct] from EL NOTICIERO.

[Reporter] Mr. President, let us now refer to public demonstrations in the country. According to information we have, there was some tension during a rally held by the Permanent Committee of the National Debate yesterday. In addition, we have received reports that Fenastras [Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation] has scheduled a march for 31 October to commemorate last year's attack. What attitude will the government's security corps adopt before this march, especially since there was friction during yesterday's rally?

[Cristiani] Well, I have not received any reports of friction yesterday. Dr. Guerrero [not further identified] was here, and he gave me a letter. We have, however, been very clear. As long as those who wish to hold demonstrations and rallies do it according to the law and do not violate it, there will be no problems. This is a free country. Everyone has the right to protest, to show their support, or do what he believes is best, and he will have the freedom to do it, as long as it is done according to the law. That understood, there will be no reaction against a demonstration or rally. We could be concerned, however, about the fact that such demonstrations often block traffic, and we have suggested that instead of blocking traffic on big streets, they could instead hold rallies in Civica Plaza or in Libertad Plaza. We are not trying to stop them from expressing themselves publicly, we just want to prevent a higher consumption of fuel, the price of which they themselves are protesting and which costs the country so much. The fact that they cause traffic problems does not contribute to the solution, but worsens it.

[Moderator] [Name indistinct] from YSKL.

[Reporter] Mr. President, yesterday was the 11th anniversary of the coup d'etat that overthrew General Carlos Humberto Romero. Opposition political parties and leftist groups have pointed out that the proclamation issued by the Armed Forces and the military youth at that time was [words indistinct]. As president, we would like to know what you think about the document issued after the coup d'etat. My second question concerns the radio station owners who recently met and said that your government promised that the cost of their raw material, electrical power, would not be affected. Electricity costs are too high, however, and it is almost impossible for small radio stations to operate in this country.

[Cristiani] First, I believe that the proclamation was good for a given period. Then came a process that is continuing now. Within a democratic process, we cannot be subjected to an intention that existed at any given time when circumstances were unique. Democracy is a dynamic and changing process and must continue to evolve. We cannot stay in the past and believe that if something was good in the past, it must be good forever. I believe progress comes when we adapt to new situations, to new requirements, and to the new needs of society in the country with regard to its development—economic, social, and political. I believe that this is what happened with the proclamation.

Different aspects of the proclamation have evolved. I personally believe, however, that what is most important in the country is not the 15 October proclamation, but the 1983 Constitution. That is our basic law, that is our fundamental charter, and that is what must rule over the country. It is a constitution that resulted from debates which took place in the country for the first time in its history. Not a single party dominated the assembly at that time. Many debates took place. The Constitution may be imperfect in many things, but it was what we needed. We needed the consensus of the different forces represented in Salvadoran society. In my opinion, the Constitution of the Republic is much more important than the proclamation, notwithstanding what may have been considered important at a given moment. Right now, our fundamental charter is the Constitution, not the proclamation of 15 October 1979.

Second, I am gladly going to check with the officials of the CEL [Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission] to see what happened. We had authorized an [increase in electricity rates] for industry and commerce. It was one of the measures they tried to avoid for some time. They wanted to prevent us from using the funds CEL used as a subsidy. They did not want us to increase the price of fuel before. We will gladly look into the radio station situation.

Chamber of Commerce Communique on Fuel Prices

PA1610173090 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] The Chamber of Commerce and Industries in El Salvador has stated that the increase in the price of oil by-products is inavoidable, according to a communique issued in San Salvador. Nevertheless, the Chamber's report also urges all the groups to accept the unavoidable fact that the price of staples will also increase. We consider it is a citizen's duty and obligation to help reduce the negative impact that the increase in prices will have on the economy, it was emphasized in the communique. The country's most important labor unions, political parties and the Catholic Church have predicted that the 55 percent increase in fuel prices could generate a social rebellion of enormous consequences.

FMLN Issues 'Manifesto' to Armed Forces

PA1610230790 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 16 Oct 90

["Manifesto" issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) General Command to the Salvadoran Armed Forces in El Salvador on 15 October]

[Text] **FMLN Manifesto to the Armed Forces:**

Let us join forces to defeat militarism and build democracy. On 15 October 1979 an attempt was foiled. The Armed Forces' victory is marked by a recurrent internal struggle between its liberal and conservative sectors. The Army was created by Manuel Jose Arce and other forefathers with popular, Central American, and sovereign ideals. Liberal heroes General Francisco Morazan and Captain General Gerardo Barrios were executed by the oligarchy. When a priest approached Gen. Barrios to hear his confession before the firing squad, he said: Let Almighty God's will be done. Barrios replied: In El Salvador, it is President Duenas' will. Today cadets are, paradoxically, taught to revere Barrios while simultaneously being sent to die in defense of the oligarchy which assassinated him.

In 1932 the Army was fully in favor of and under the control of the oligarchy, and the military dictatorship became entrenched. Nevertheless, progresive military members have made heroic attempts to correct the Army's course throughout the years. The uprisings in 1944, 1948, 1960, 1962, and 1979 were intended to achieve this goal. The 15 October 1979 attempt once again prevented the war from breaking out and changed the nation. The officers who led that attempt established a precedent to purge the Army. The attempt was foiled by the U.S. Government's interference because it lacked the people's support and because the few colonels who were not purged betrayed the movement. War was unleashed. One of the main reasons was that the Army, dominated by corrupt and murderous commanders, had turned the country into a realm of militarism and

impunity. They had made the country totally dependent—economically, militarily, and politically—on the U.S. Government's interests.

Militarism and Social Injustice, Reasons for the War

Until 1972 the Salvadorans exhausted all the peaceful means to end militarism and underdevelopment. The generals and colonels, however, hurt the people with fraud and brutal repression, so we had no other choice but to start the war. The FMLN became the Army which defended the people's interests; it was even joined by officers, NCO's [Noncommissioned Officers], and soldiers. Then there were two Armies: One financed by the North Americans and placed at the service of the oligarchy, and another one supported in many ways by the people. There is nothing that the Army of the government has not tried in the military sector and there are no atrocities that it has not carried out to defeat the people up in arms—yet it has failed.

The FMLN is authentically Salvadoran; it depends on no one, and no congress or government provides it with aid. Our strength comes from the people and this will become much clearer because the war can no longer be attributed to international communism. The United States has begun to abandon the Army by cutting its aid, as was the case with Vietnam, the contras, and the current Panamanian Government. The hopes that the FMLN could be weakened by the Soviet Union's situation have been frustrated. The international community has been asked to issue appeals for the FMLN's surrender, which the Armed Forces has not been able to achieve on the battlefield.

The FMLN Army, an Undeniable Reality of Power

The FMLN is an indisputable military, political, and territorial power today. Our struggle is being waged to achieve democracy and end militarism. This coincides with the struggle that has been waged by the democratic military at all times. Young officers must bear the burden of a war which was caused by others. We are sure that they, like us, consider it to be against the homeland's interests to have Salvadorans killing each other. We must build a society where being a military member does not mean having the license to kill and steal. We believe that the disappearance of the two armies, through a process for a progressive solution, is the key to attaining peace and launching the country's economic recovery.

We hereby (?call upon) the military patriots to:

1. Put an end to militarism. It is time to say farewell to arms. It is time to establish democracy. The end of militarism will mark the beginning of a time of peace and well-being for all Salvadorans. Overwhelming evidence of what we say is that the powers defeated in World War II, Germany and Japan, were forced out of the arms race. Militarism ceased to exist in their societies. Today they are among the most stable economic powers and have the potential of becoming world leaders. Costa Rica, which does not have an army, is an example of political stability in the region. The wealth that the Salvadoran Army controls today should serve to reintegrate the military into civilian society. The Armed Forces are an enterprise and an organized force. They have the alternative to cease being a discredited power and becoming a productive force that could contribute to the country's economic development.

2. Organize new security forces. To make sure that militarism, torture, and repression will not reappear, the new security forces should be organized with the participation of honest officers, all sectors of society, and the FMLN. This force should be comprised entirely of professionals and it should obey civilian authority, respect the citizens, and be loved and respected by the people.

3. Yield power to civilian society. Civilian society, despite the oppression to which it has been subjected, is sufficiently developed and ready to assume state leadership. The amount squandered by the Army and on the war should serve to reinforce society and the people's well-being.

4. Unite against the corrupt High Command. Let us say farewell to arms so that tomorrow the new generations do not have to face the alternative of wielding a rifle to defend their ideas, regardless of their nature. If we all say farewell to arms, no one will be defeated. This will be the story of an entire nation. We call on you to close ranks against the corrupt High Command, to raise anew the ideals of the military youth movement of 15 October 1979 so that we can understand each other, and to join arms and the collective patriotic will to bring to the people the just peace and genuine democracy which the people desire and deserve. You now have the opportunity to honor the memory of the homeland's fathers and the Army's liberal heroes and decisively contribute toward democracy, the country's development and modernization, and definitive peace. By abandoning the rifles, the Democratic Republic of El Salvador will be born and live forever.

[Signed] FMLN General Command

Commanders Jorge Shafik Handal, Eduardo Sancho, Francisco Jovel, Salvador Sanchez Teren, Joaquin Villalobos.

[Dated] El Salvador, 15 October 1990.

Labor Unions, Military Tensions Said To Increase

PA1710024290 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0139 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] San Salvador, 15 Oct (EFE)—Tension between the main Salvadoran trade unions and the military has increased during the past few days following the announcement that a march will take place. The Army is warning that street riots are being planned.

The Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation (Fenastras) announced today that its members plan to

march on 31 October to mark the first anniversary of a bomb attack against this labor organization in which 10 people were killed and 30 injured.

Fenastras President Febe Elizabeth Velasquez was among those killed in the attack, the authors of which are still unknown.

Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani and other military leaders warned last week that labor groups—which they described as guerrilla fronts—are preparing violent public demonstrations to provoke a strong reaction from the Armed Forces and to then accuse them of attacking the people.

Union spokesmen have said that the protests are aimed at pressuring the government into modifying its neoliberal economic policy, particularly after the implementation of a 55-percent increase in the price of gasoline, which will lead to an increase in the price of staples.

Both the government and the military have accused union leaders of offering their support to a possible military offensive by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), which, according to military commanders, could take place in the next few days.

Meanwhile, thousands of peasants marched peacefully to the Presidency today, demanding from President Cristiani specific agreements in the peace negotiations, the continuation of the agrarian reform process, and respect for human rights.

Marcos Salazar, leader of the Democratic Peasant Alliance (ADC), comprised of several peasant cooperatives, told EFE that his organization will demand an end to rural parcelling, through which the government wants to destroy the cooperative movement.

The cooperatives have interpreted the government's rural parcelling plan as a step backward in the agrarian reform plan that was initiated in 1980 by a civic-military junta, which assumed power after General Carlos Humberto Romero was overthrown 11 years ago.

Guatemala

URNG Attacks Army Helicopters, A-37B Plane

PA1610233590 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 13 Oct 90 p 2

[Text] The CERIGUA news agency has reported that the guerrillas attacked three Army helicopters and a A-37B plane that were carrying out attack operations in the northwestern El Quiche Department. The guerrilla also inflicted 12 casualties on the government troops during clashes in the first days of this month.

The URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] reported that on 1, 2, and 3 October rebels clashed with troops stationed in Union Cuarto Pueblo and the garrisons located at the Puente Xalbal and Pueblo Nuevo villages, inflicting 12 casualties on the Army.

Rivera Announces Relations With Hungary

PA1610163590 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 13 Oct 90 p 4

[Text] Foreign Minister Ariel Rivera Irias has reported that on 12 October Guatemala and Hungary established diplomatic relations, at the ambassadorial level, through a protocol signed at the U.N. headquarters in New York City.

Rivera Irias said that the protocol was signed by Guatemalan Ambassador Francisco Villagran de Leon and Hungarian Ambassador Andre Erdos after consulting with and receiving authorization from their respective governments.

The foreign minister said that it was agreed to establish relations to develop friendly ties and strengthen bilateral cooperation.

In conclusion, Rivera Irias explained that the diplomats expressed their desire to contribute to the strengthening of international peace and security, based on the respect for the principles of international law.

Honduras

'Influential Officer' Discounts Coup Rumors

PA1710002690 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1553 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 15 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—An influential officer of the Honduran Army today discounted rumors of an internal coup to oust General Arnulfo Cantarero, Armed Forces commander in chief.

Speaking to the media, Colonel Hector Rene Fonseca discounted rumors that sectors dissatisfied with Cantarero's work are plotting to remove him from his position as Armed Forces chief.

"Cantarero is a balanced, wise, and able man, and he is not purging any of his comrades in arms," said Fonseca, one of several high-ranking officers removed from their posts in various garrisons last week.

"We could not wage a coup against our fellow officer (Cantarero), whom we support 100 percent," remarked Fonseca, who was transferred from a military brigade to a staff position.

Cantarero's term as Armed Forces commander in chief began on 27 January of this year and will conclude in 1993.

Fonseca pointed out that in the garrisons "there is no struggle. We are a consolidated hierarchical organization. We obey our leader and will work as disciplined soldiers wherever we are sent."

The removals, described as "routine," also affected other colonels, including Mario Amaya and Erick Sanchez, members of the 6th Infantry graduating class to which Cantarero belonged, the members of which hold leading Armed Forces positions.

In the 1980's, there were three internal coups in the Honduran Armed Forces, an institution of 27,000 men and a traditional source of power in this Central American country.

Nicaragua

Dreyfus on ICJ Suit, Diplomat Tapia Case

PA1710005090 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network 0200 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Passages in italics are recorded]

[Text] The forthcoming presidential summit, the Nicaraguan suit before the International Court of Justice [ICJ] at The Hague, and the case of former Nicaraguan diplomat William Tapia were amply discussed by Foreign Minister Enrique Dreyfus during a news conference held on 15 October. The foreign minister reported on the work done by the members of the Nicaraguan delegation who went to New York, where they met with the chiefs of state of various countries of the world along with other important persons. Dreyfus stressed the meeting he held with the Central American foreign ministers, during which they discussed topics related to the forthcoming Central American presidential summit that will be held in December in Puntarenas, Costa Rica.

[Dreyfus] *Nicaragua hosted what one might call a mini-summit, where we drafted the agenda for the next foreign ministers' meeting to be held in Tegucigalpa.*

When referring to Nicaragua's suit against the United States at the ICJ, Dreyfus said that the government will seek a settlement that will not harm our sovereignty and our excellent relations with the United States.

[Dreyfus] *I think this is a fact, and I believe this is something we must not ignore. When I speak about defending our sovereignty, I believe we are speaking about something we are entitled to demand. It is very interesting to see how the ICJ, a powerful and large organization, ruled in favor of Nicaragua, a small nation. To ignore this fact, this action that is in our favor, to improve the relations between the two countries, would be somewhat absurd. This is a fact. It is also absurd to ignore the fact that out of all the countries that have helped us so far, the United States is the one that has helped us the most.*

Concerning the case of former Nicaraguan diplomat William Tapia, who is charged with drug trafficking, he said the government is trying to determine if there is any evidence of his participation. He added that the Japanese Government has agreed to extradite Tapia to the United States. He also referred to narcotics trafficking charges against Nicaraguan diplomat Adolfo Chamorro.

[Dreyfus] *All of these cases will be investigated. First, if there is an accusation, the one raising the charges should prove what he is saying. In the second place, the persons involved in these cases should be investigated. We are waiting for the evidence.*

Government Devalues Cordoba by Six Percent

PA1710011390 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1815 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government today officially devalued the cordoba six percent against the U.S. dollar. The government also implemented a 16 percent increase in fuel prices. The official exchange rate went from 1.32 million cordobas per dollar to 1.40 million cordobas per dollar, while the price of the the U.S. dollar on the black market is [word indistinct] 1.5 million cordobas. Similarly, a gallon of gasoline rose from 2.83 million cordobas to 3.29 million cordobas.

The government of national salvation has been implementing successive devaluations of our currency to correct the distorted prices of products that are sold in our markets and to encourage exports of agricultural products, since this activity will help Nicaragua emerge from its economic prostration. Last week Emilio Rappaccioli, director of the Nicaraguan Energy Institute, also said that Venezuela, the only country that provides Nicaragua with oil, increased its price per barrel of oil from $33.87 to $34.87 as a result of the Persian Gulf conflict.

FNT Leader on National Dialogue Walkout

PA1710015790 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Interview with Gustavo Porras, a leader in the National Workers Front (FNT), by unidentified reporter; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Dr. Porras, it is being said that the FNT is boycotting the national dialogue.

[Porras] No, we have always been interested in the national dialogue achieving its highest objectives. This is why we were calling for the creation of a suitable situation prior to the initiation of talks. I think it is the government which is boycotting the national dialogue.

[Reporter] Why do you say that?

[Porras] Because on Friday the commissions had not yet finished their work, and the government representatives called us to a meeting and started reading points on which we had not agreed. This was done without any previous agreement. This was a dishonest action that negatively affects the national dialogue.

[Reporter] You have said that some of these points had been discussed. What has the government said?

[Porras] We asked for the floor on several occasions, but it was denied to us until Lucio Jimenez asked for it. We pointed out this irresponsible attitude to the government. Presenting an unemployment plan which we had not discussed in detail was an act of irresponsibility. We do not support unemployment. The government had nothing to say to this.

[Reporter] Are you renewing the national dialogue on Tuesday, or are you going to [word indistinct]?

[Porras] We made it clear that we walked out as a sign of protest against that action. It is up to the government now. The government has the ball. It must guarantee that it will not maintain a position which does not lead to a happy ending. We reported that this weekend and Monday we would be talking with our rank and file to listen to their opinions on the situation, and on Monday we will meet to decide whether or not we will renew the dialogue on Tuesday.

[Reporter] Do you believe in the national dialogue?

[Porras] We believe in a national dialogue which is open to the people, to the workers. We want the people and the workers to guarantee that there will be compliance with the agreements. We do not believe in acting behind the backs of the people and workers. This was our concern. This is why we walked out, because there was this talk of agreement on a matter we had not even discussed.

[Reporter] Thank you.

Bomb Attack at Bus Terminal; No Casualties

PA1710001890 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] This is a last-minute report. Another bomb has been detonated. This time the target was Enabus [National Bus Enterprise] terminal number five. It has just been reported that at least three urban buses were damaged by a bomb that exploded early this morning in the Enabus terminal in the Jose Benito Escobar neighborhood. The Sandinist Enabus workers are trying to prevent the buses from moving. Despite all the threats and the illegal strike, there are some drivers who continue to work. No casualties were reported.

Consul Rejects MIAMI HERALD Charges

PA1710022390 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1330 GMT 15 Oct 90

["Exclusive" telephone interview with Adolfo Chamorro, Nicaraguan consul in Miami, by unidentified reporter in Managua; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Chamorro] First, I want to tell the Nicaraguan people that everything the MIAMI HERALD published is groundless and untrue. We deny this kind of irresponsible accusation because it discredits me and the democratic government of Nicaragua. I fought in the Southern Front during the struggle against the Somozist dictatorship. I not only risked my life, but the lives of my relatives too, including my own immediate family. From the economic viewpoint, I had a lot to lose at the time, and I can tell you that all my Nicaraguan friends are aware of that situation. I did not mind the risks at the time, because I was interested in struggling for the freedom of my homeland.

After we defeated the Somozist dictatorship, we realized that the Sandinists were part of the international communist movement. I again realized that the time had come to renew the struggle for my homeland's freedom. I was tired from the first war, and I had not had time to rest, but I again picked up my rifle along with my comrades in arms, because the totalitarianism that prevailed at the time allowed no civic struggle.

I want to state that all this is an infamy and that it is slander plotted by the left—which exists not only in Nicaragua but also here in exile. They are trying to discredit the reputation of a revolutionary and a democratically elected government, meaning Mrs. Violeta de Chamorro's government.

On Monday, 15 October, we will hold a news conference at 1100, and we will invite the local and foreign news media to tell the world about our position and about the slanderous statements published by the MIAMI HERALD.

[Reporter] Mr. Chamorro, according to the MIAMI HERALD and the newspapers here in Managua, Fabio Ernesto Carrasco, a Colombian pilot who is under arrest, said that he knows you and that you participated in a drug trafficking conspiracy between 1984 and 1986. Do you know this man?

[Chamorro] Never in my life, like I told several journalists here in Miami. I have never met with that man in my life. I do not even know him; I do not know who he is. I have never seen him in my life. I do not know where he got that kind of information. It is undeniably a conspiracy to revive a case that was fully investigated and acquitted by the U.S. Government more than two years ago.

I have a letter which I will make public on Monday. In this letter the U.S. Senate, after a full investigation, fully acquits me of any guilt in the case. Proof of this is that I have been living here in the United States for many years, and I have never had to leave the country. I enter and leave the country without a problem, and the best proof that the charges are false is that—in addition to being appointed consul general in Miami—the U.S. State Department has approved my credentials as consul.

I want to tell the Nicaraguan people that the U.S. Government does not recognize the rights of a foreign consul in the country if he is not properly investigated and qualified. I have been authorized by the U.S. State

Department to operate as consul general in the United States. Therefore, if the accusations issued against me by that man were true, I would not have even been given the U.S. residence permit that I currently have.

[Reporter] Then do you believe that this is a campaign planned by someone who is interested in discrediting you and, in turn, Violeta Chamorro's administration?

[Chamorro] Definitely. What you are saying is correct from every viewpoint. There are persons interested in finding the government's weak points...[corrects himself] alleged weak points, to discredit the new democratic government. It is also a campaign planned against me to discredit my reputation as a revolutionary and the honest attitude I assumed throughout my 12 years of revolutionary struggle.

[Reporter] Mr. Chamorro, do you have anything else to add in this interview to which Radio Nicaragua listeners listening?

[Chamorro] Nicaraguans from one end of Nicaragua to the other know me very well. They know me from Chinandega to San Juan del Sur; from the Cabo Gracias a Dios to San Rafael del Norte. I have been to the farthest corners of Nicaragua. They know me and they know I would never lend myself to that kind of situation. I am a man who has always been willing to take the consequences in any situation. This is but another battle in our path, and we will wage it and win it.

Consequently, on Monday I will hold a news conference so that you and all the news media may make your own deductions on this shameful situation, because it is detrimental not only for a member of Chamorro's govermment, but also for a Nicaraguan citizen and a true revolutionary who has struggled 12 years to achieve democracy in our homeland.

[Reporter] Thank you.

Panama

Comptroller Dario Discusses State of Economy

PA1710015890 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 15 Oct 90 pp a-1, a-2

[Text] Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles, responding to trade unions, worker associations, and government enterprises scheduled to take part in activities defending their interests, has said that "all Panamanians have a right to make requests, submit petitions, and carry out protests, because we live under absolute freedom of expression and democracy. We should, however, respectfully prevent sectors within these groups, by their behavior and demands, from disrupting institutions that they claim to defend...."

The comptroller also said that "it is one thing to struggle to hold on to legitimately acquired rights; it is something else to believe that one can hold on by all means to concessions and benefits gratuitously granted to serve demagogic causes...."

Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles made the following statements:

1. Liberty and Democracy

I recognize that all Panamanians have a right to make requests, submit petitions, and carry out protests, because we live under absolute freedom of expression and democracy. We should, however, respectfully prevent sectors within these groups, by their behavior and demands, from disrupting institutions that they claim to defend. The claims these public officials make when they are not satisfied vary, which sometimes causes them to make disproportionate requests and to behave irrationally, indifferent to the harm these attitudes may cause other Panamanians. At other times, these claims and postures are legitimate, which everyone should respect.

2. Autonomy and Privatization

Lately, it has been said that the government is going to privatize specific economic activities. Government spokespersons have many times given the names of state-owned companies that the government wants to privatize. This appears in the economic program adopted by the current administration. The government has never considered the possibility of privatizing basic service enterprises, much less the University of Panama. For very biased reasons known to all, some people insist, however, on turning the defense of the autonomy of public entities into a cause of protest, even after it has been clearly stated that no one is thinking about undermining the autonomy of any public entity. The same holds true regarding privatization. It is only justified to privatize those economic activities that, given their condition and poor economic performance, are not profitable. There will no longer be a reason for the government to continue to lose large sums of money, which are needed for hospitals, schools, housing, roads, and social welfare.

3. Selfish Demands

In some cases, the positions adopted by groups of protesters have become a real obstacle, because some of them present selfish demands, such as seeking reinstatement, under the existing conditions, of payment of the 13th month bonus that was suspended by the previous administration. In addition, it is a mistake to consider the possibility of a general wage increase at a time we need greater fiscal discipline and austerity in public spending.

4. Wage Increase

To prevent a worsening in the unemployment crisis, it should be pointed out that the government has decided to bear the burden of the excessive number of public

workers who currently comprise the government apparatus, who exceed the amount of workers really needed. As a result, neither fiscal expenditures nor wages can be increased in an already large and unnecessary bureaucratic apparatus.

5. The Special Laws and Privileges

We understand—because it is human—that people struggle to keep certain privileges, concessions, payments, and services that have been granted to them by special laws. This does not eliminate the nature of the aforementioned benefits, which represent an act of discrimination and a special privilege not given to other public workers. Thus, one wonders about the justification of this preferential treatment for some sectors as opposed to others.

6. Unfounded Criticism

The greed manifested by some people who are badly advised because of the stubbornness of many of their leaders threatens to weaken the financial situation of the enterprises in which they work and make their living. Looking to criticize and hoping to receive easy applause, they object to measures that are intended to resolve the problems of the very entities that they say they defend.

For example, IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification], Intel [National Institute of Telecommunications], the National Port Authority, and the IDAAN [National Water and Sanitation Institute] are public institutions which receive financing from foreign sources. These institutions face problems because of the policies and procedures imposed during the years of the dictatorial regime that have weakened their financial capacities. They have to repay large sums of money. These institutions, which have failed to service their debts, are currently in urgent need of money to provide new investment which will allow them to grow and sustain the maintenance level necessary to efficiently operate. These institutions forsook maintenance for several years, and we now have to bear the burden of such irresponsible behavior.

IRHE, for example, has debts totalling $700 million, including outstanding obligations with international financial institutions of over $350 million in unpaid principal and interest.

PRD To Participate in 'March for Life' Protest

PA1610200590 Panama City EL DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE in Spanish 16 Oct p23

[Report by Garrit Geneteau D.]

[Text] The opposition Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) hereby calls on all organizations, especially the labor sectors and other organized groups, to support and defend their rights by participating in "The March for Life" scheduled for 16 October.

The PRD has issued a press communique, signed by First Deputy Secretary Gustavo Melgar, in which the Central Committee supports the initiative of the Panamanian workers' movement led by the National Council of Organized Workers (CONATO) National Coordinating Commission and other labor groups.

The PRD, in the "March For Life," reaffirms its defense of the rights of Panamanian workers. It rejects the IMF proposal, the privatization of the IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification] and Intel [National Institute of Telecommunications], and the elimination of group contracts.

Fenasep Calls on Workers To Join March

PA1610215590 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 16 Oct 90 pp A-1, A-2

[Communique issued by the National Federation of Associations and Organizations of Public Employees (Fenasep); place and date not given]

[Text] **Let us all face the government's strategy**

In view of the persecution and hunger that the "democratic" government's strategy has brought, our leadership has decided to call upon all employed and unemployed workers to actively participate in the "March for Life" convened by workers organized in state worker unions and in Fenasep. This event will take place simultaneously throughout the country.

Fellow workers: Do not become confused by epithets, such as Norieguista, crook, and so many others used against those who defend the right to live in dignity. In the past you were called seditious or communists.

Do not become confused by promises that the government will comply with your demands, as it has already shown that it is a great collective demagogue toward our people, community representatives, professors, nursing assistants, Free Zone employees, war refugees, and so on.

Act now, because you may not have another opportunity to defend your right to life.

Members of Fenasep:

Participate in the march, the primary act of force to deter the strategy of persecution and hunger, on Tuesday, 16 October 1990, scheduled to begin at the Porras Plaza at 1615.

Fenasep's gathering place in Panama City—in front of the Foreign Ministry, in Porras Plaza.

In other parts of the country, coordinate with Fenasep chapter members and go to the Sitintel [Union of National Institute of Telecommunications Employees] offices.

Democracy with hunger is not democracy!

Yes to integrating health services, no to the false autonomy of Social Security!

No to privatization that becomes detrimental to the people!

Not one more dismissal!

We demand payment of the 13th month bonus and classification changes!

We demand a halt to the persecution of our leaders!

We demand the reinstatement of unjustly fired workers!

We demand respect for freedom of thought and the right to peaceful assembly!

Juan Samudio, secretary general

Juan Sanjur, recording secretary

Roberto Pinnock, secretary of national affairs

Representing Fenasep's board of directors:

Xiomara Ambulo, Aseupa [Association of Panama University Employees]

Elias Ortega, Aseinrenare [Association of Employees of the Institute of Renewable Natural Resources]

Juan Melgarejo, Asemop [Association of Public Works Ministry Employees]

Andres Guerrero, Cemento Bayano Association

Miguel Stong, AECSS [Association of Social Security Fund Employees]

Marchers Submit Demands

PA1710022290 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] As planned, hundreds of state workers marched toward the Presidency of the Republic late this afternoon, demanding from the government better pay, a 13th-month bonus payment, and the nonprivatization of some state enterprises. Although President Endara sent a note requesting the postponement of the march until a later date when he would be able to give it proper consideration, the state workers kept to their decision to hold the march. This march unites the demands of thousands of unemployed, who are demanding work from the government due to the critical situation that increases daily. During the march, other workers joined it in support of the state workers, who say that they have legitimate demands.

The marchers left the Don Bosco Church and headed toward the Presidency, which was to be their final destination. The marchers carried posters alluding to the needs of state workers, and chanted slogans against the IMF policy, which, according to the demonstrators, is pressuring Latin American governments to make their public utility enterprises state-owned.

Marches were also staged in the streets of several provinces. In Santiago, Veraguas Province, for example, the workers picketed the government house. The different labor organizations returned peacefully to their respective headquarters at the end of the demonstration in Santiago.

The demonstrators who left Porras Plaza this afternoon to march to the Presidency, demanding solutions to the workers' demands, arrived at the Presidency a few minutes ago. After an impromptu rally, during which several speakers addressed the crowds, a commission made up of the general secretaries of the state worker organizations met with the president of the Republic and gave him a 13-point list of demands, which include the nonprivatization of state enterprises, rejection of the Labor Code reforms, and respect for Panamanian labor organizations. The demonstration ended peacefully and without incident.

Herrera Accused of Leaking Classified Papers

PA1610161490 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 16 Oct 90 p1

[Report by Juan Pristiolas]

[Text] A former Public Force (FP) officer yesterday accused former FP Director (retired) Colonel Eduardo Herrera of "distributing" to local and foreign reporters "classified documents" on the questioning of members of General Manuel Antonio Noriega's staff.

The source, who asked that his identity not be revealed, also said that Herrera presumably made up a story about the involvement of officers, who on 16 March 1988 attempted a coup against Noriega, in an alleged conspiracy against Guillermo Endara's government.

The former officer said that Herrera holds animosity towards (retired) Colonel Fernando Quesada and (retired) Major Moises del Rio and now wants to link trips made by these two officers and (retired) Major Augusto Villalaz to Miami to alleged coup plots.

The source said that Eduardo Herrera, in an "irresponsible manner" had provided certain reporters with documents on the questioning of Noriega's officers. The questioning sessions had been conducted by an officer of the U.S. Directorate of Strategic Intelligence who came to Panama, following the December invasion, especially for that purpose.

The source, who like Herrera held a prominent post in the Public Force, called Herrera a colonel "without any credibility" because he allegedly revealed supposedly confidential material to third parties.

The classified information allegedly leaked out by the former police director primarily affects Colonel Fernando Quesada. According to our source, Quesada blames Herrera for his dismissal.

Armed, Trained Ex-Troops Allegedly in Hiding

PA1610191590 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 15 Oct 90 p4

[From the "Pages" Column by Milciades Ortiz]

[Text] I met with a source linked to intelligence services. He told me: "Professor, buy more ammunition for your gun, just in case you have to defend your home if there is a second wave of looting."

Out of curiosity, I asked him: "Will there be any more looting?"

He said, "Perhaps because of certain government measures that are not very popular; however, any excuse will do. Looting might start for any reason because the goal is to destabilize the country so that other things can happen."

I told my source that I doubted that the storeowners would stand by and permit looting. He agreed, saying that many of them have been buying 12-gauge shotguns to defend their stores.

My source told me—at a secret place in Panama City where we met—that "this deal is bigger than you think. There are people who are determined to carry this out."

I was still skeptical about his information and told him so, pointing out that nothing can happen in Panama while the Yankees are still here.

He said: "This time the Yankees will not interfere. First, they will send the police, with orders to shoot to kill. Many people will be killed. The matter is so serious that some people are saying: "I hope I am at peace with the Lord when the time comes."

I asked him about the identity of the organizers of the alleged looting. He was not very clear on this issue and only said that they belong "to several sectors" and obviously have various intentions. He stressed that the M-20 [20 December Movement] is a hard reality, that it has weapons and people, and that it can be activated at any moment.

After a while, he asked me, with an all-knowing smile: "What do you know about the Macho de Monte battalion [former Panama Defense Force Battalion]?"

I told him that it was a battalion that was loyal to Noriega and had expertise in taking part in killings, but that it had been dismantled.

In no uncertain terms, he told me: "Do not believe that. Many of them have never surfaced. They took to the mountains as soon as the invasion started and have not been found since."

I told him emphatically that, "neither they nor anyone else can carry out any guerrilla activity while the U.S. soldiers are still here."

He said: "the Macho de Monte soldiers were especially trained for a long war in the countryside, copying tactics that used to drive the Yankees crazy in Vietnam. I have been told that months before the invasion, some villages were established in the mountains. This is where the Macho de Monte soldiers are living, as if they were peasants. The weapons are very well hidden, and the Yankees have not been able to control or destroy these villages because they think they are peasants. I have been told that some of them are in Cocle, Colon, and Veraguas, where the people are awaiting orders to act."

I asked him, "With Noriega in prison, who are they going to follow?"

He replied: "Now it is a struggle for power, not for Noriega; his time is past. There is, however, much more than Noriega behind all this. Why do you think they are in such a hurry to bring back the Peace Corps? So that they can control the peasants and find out these things that many people do not know about."

He also said that there is a huge arsenal im Panama City that has not yet been discovered. He also said that there is at least one container full of deadly weapons somewhere in Colon and one or two in Chiriqui. He said that very efficient advisers had trained the Macho de Monte troops in this type of war, and they are not saying anything because they are loyal (I do not know to whom at this moment) and have much discipline.

The truth is that because of these conversations, I am afraid and worried. I am telling you all this to share my fears.

Spadafora Murder Witness Surrenders to Police

PA1710031890 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1821 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] San Jose, 15 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—A Panamanian, who identified himself as Jose Angel Chavez Saldana, 23, turned himself in to the Costa Rican police on Sunday 14 October, claiming that someone in his country wants to kill him because he knows details about the 1985 murder of Panamanian guerrilla Hugo Spadafora, the police reported today.

Spadafora was murdered, but Panamanian or Costa Rican authorities have yet to find his head. The body was discovered in Costa Rican territory, but reports indicate that he was killed in Panama by alleged military officers of the defunct Panamanian Defense Forces, which were led by Manuel Antonio Noriega.

An official spokesman told ACAN-EFE that Chavez said he had been living in the Costa Rican border community of La Cuesta for one month and had fled his country because he feared for his life. Demetrio Rodriguez, a former Panamanian captain, was arrested for his alleged involvement in the case. Chavez claims that he was Rodriguez' bodyguard.

According to the Costa Rican police source, Chavez said he was "involved" in Spadafora's death and was being hunted down in Panama.

The official version states that the Panamanian, who carried no identification papers when he surrendered to the police, was sent to higher authorities to interrogate him and to decide if he would be deported to his country or be allowed to remain in Costa Rica.

According to a report today by the Costa Rican newspaper LA NACION, Chavez said Noriega's followers want to execute him to prevent him from testifying in the trial against Noriega and other former military officers charged with Spadafora's murder. Consequently, he has asked the authorities to grant him political asylum or to send him to a third country.

According to this report, Chavez knew four days before the crime, which took place on 14 September 1985, that his employer, Demetrio Rodriguez, who was a lieutenant at the time, was going to kill Spadafora. He claims that Rodriguez used a machete to kill the former Panamanian health minister in the town of Bugaba, Concepcion, 40 km from the Costa Rican border.

LA NACION adds that, in addition to the former military officer, Captain Madrinan, Eliecer Chavarria, a corporal known as "Bruce Lee," and Carlos Melendez, a relative of Rodriguez who worked in a farm owned by Noriega in the town of Volcan, also participated in the murder.

"A woman in Cerro Punta (Panamanian border town) watched as Red Devils (elite troops) mistreated Doctor Spadafora. When she learned about his assassination a few days later, she mentioned the incident to her neighbors. The military arrived at her house and stabbed her 15 times," stated Chavez.

Argentina

Defense Minister Comments on Cavallo Trip

PY1610161690 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1556 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Oct (DYN)—Defense Minister Humberto Romero has denied that Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo has travelled to Saudi Arabia to "speak about the financing, and even less" about the sending of Argentine vessels to the Persian Gulf. He also indicated that Cavallo went to "coordinate actions" with the other forces that are posted in the region.

Romero did not want to say whether financing has been implemented when he said that "those are strings that are pulled by the United Nations and the Economy Ministry."

In remarks to the press, the minister also indicated that Cavallo will also coordinate "the anchorage of the two vessels, which will be defined at three points." [que se definiria en tres puntos]

Cuban-Soviet 'Spy Apparatus' in Capital Alleged

PY1610132790 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 14 Oct 90 p 1, 4

[Report by Daniel Lupa]

[Excerpts] An unusual congress will take place in Buenos Aires on 18 December. The International Federation on Human Rights that met in New York earlier this month decided to hold a "Congress for the Restoration of Men's Basic Rights and Freedoms in Cuba" in Buenos Aires. [passage omitted]

As "LA PRENSA" has reported in this space in the past, it seems that the Castroist group with diplomatic rank in Argentina is going through a tense situation that observers are watching carefully.

One of the sources of tension could be the implementation of a system of observation and analysis that watches over everything that happens at the embassy—including the behavior of embassy officials. The system utilizes the services of diplomats from other countries who allegedly report directly to Havana and fulfill the role of police supervision over activities at the embassy.

Some of these services are carried out by members of the diplomatic corps of North African countries that are "more than friendly" to Castro and by second-level officials from traditionally communist East European groups.

Reports on the process at the local Castroist embassy indicate that the Soviet police and spy apparatus, which supports Castro in the island-prison, has deployed a chain of agents recruited mainly from East European embassies (which they have supervised for decades and from which they can easily recruit agents) and accredited in Latin America—Argentina included—to maintain a parallel and direct information channel with "the Caribbean jackal."

The climate at the local Castroist embassy has allegedly become "practically suffocating." This is according to an embassy official who confided in an Argentine diplomat and of whom he allegedly asked for advice—and help?—in case he received an unexpected order to return to the island-prison.

Bolivia

Government Concerned About Chilean 'Arms Race'

PY1710025090 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0126 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] La Paz, 16 Oct (REUTER)—Today the Bolivian Government voiced its concern over what it called the "Chilean nuclear arms race, which violates the principles of peace and harmony prevailing in the American continent."

Bolivian Defense Minister Hector Ormachea said: "Any country that engages in this type of activity, causes an imbalance; that is, it disrupts the harmony and basic principles of the continent."

On 15 October the Bolivian press reported that Chile is manufacturing an explosive device that is as powerful as an atomic bomb.

Ormachea said the Bolivian Government will gather more information about the Chilean Government's projects. We will decide on the position we will adopt as soon as we have all the details. [passage indistinct]

The Bolivian press reported on 15 October that Chile has manufactured "a fuel-air explosive bomb," which is as powerful as a nuclear device.

This bomb is described as "the most powerful explosive among conventional weapons."

Planning Minister Reports on Economic Situation

PY1610123490 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Planning and Coordination Minister Enrique Garcia has said that the economic situation of the country is positive and that it has the support of the IMF.

Garcia made these remarks today after his meeting with President Paz at Government Palace. Garcia added that the IMF will make a disbursement of $60 million of freely disposable funds.

[Begin Garcia recording] Bolivia has received a highly satisfactory and favorable report from the IMF. This report has helped to obtain the approval by the IMF board of directors of a contribution which is important irrespective of the amount of money involved. It is a

freely disposable resource, but it is also a show of support to the government of national unity's economic policy. [end recording]

On the subject of the fiscal deficit, inflation, and monetary reserves, the minister said:

[Begin Garcia recording] The indexes show very favorable trends; they reflect a continuous reduction of the fiscal deficit, which in past years represented as much as 10 percent of the gross domestic product. The fiscal deficit was reduced to five percent last year and this year has been further reduced to about 3.5 percent. Indexes showing monetary expansion...[changes thought] but we are interested in the country's inflation rate, and our inflation rate until August has not surpassed 8.3 percent. This means that total inflation for the year should not be more than 11 percent. We have also outlined, as an essential element, the level of our international reserves and the level of deposits in the system. All these elements show economic growth, a modest but positive growth compared to four years ago. [end recording]

Brazil

Government Denies Economy Minister's Resignation

PY1610142290 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1405 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Brasilia, 16 Oct (REUTER) — The Brazilian Government today categorically denied a report that has circulated abroad to the effect that Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello has allegedly resigned.

Pedro Luis Rodriguez, an assistant presidential spokesman told REUTER that "the government cannot fire the minister just to confirm false reports."

Today Rodriguez reiterated a statement made to REUTER on 15 October that indicated that the economy minister has the "absolute confidence of President Fernando Collor de Mello."

Use of Launch Site by Other Countries Approved

PY1610230690 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Oct 90 p 14

[Text] Brasilia—President Fernando Collor has approved the use of Alcantara Launching Center (CLA) in Maranhao by other countries. The base will be rented. The launching center, which was to launch four Brazilian satellites between 1989 and 1992, has interested several countries and European consortiums. The proposal to make the CLA a kind of international launching center was supported by Aeronautics Minister General Socrates da Costa Monteiro after his return from an official visit to the Soviet Union last week. The Soviets have been trying to use the center to launch their rockets since construction of the CLA began.

According to Monteiro, interest in the CLA is due to the fact that it is in a privileged position near the equator, which reduces by 25 percent the amount of fuel a satellite needs to go into orbit.

Completion of the CLA was postponed four times due to a lack of funds. Of the four launchings that were planned, only one has taken place, early this year.

Spanish King, Queen Arrive for 16-Hour Stopover

PY1610223890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1957 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Salvador, 16 Oct (EFE)—Spanish King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia arrived in Salvador, capital of Bahia State, at 1930 today for a 16-hour stopover in the course of their 12th South American tour, which will last nine days and will take them to Chile and Paraguay.

According to official sources, the tour was initially scheduled to last one more day and end with a 24-hour stopover in Venezuela, but this last stage has been canceled and replaced with a brief two-hour stop in Recife, capital of Pernambuco State.

Chile

Aylwin, Others Comment on Gorbachev Nobel Prize

PY1610235690

[Editorial Report] Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish at 1000 GMT on 16 October broadcasts a five-minute wrap-up of reactions by high-ranking Chilean officials and politicians to the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Mikhail Gorbachev. President Patricio Aylwin expresses surprise and satisfaction over the award, saying: "He is a man who has shown great courage in liberalizing and democratizing the systems of a very complex, huge country, which is what the USSR is." Aylwin adds that he will send Gorbachev a congratulatory note.

Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma approves of the award, saying: "This prize is a testimony to what Gorbachev has done for the democratization of institutions, the modernization of institutions within democracy."

Education Minister Ricardo Lagos expresses satisfaction with the award and says it is recognition of Gorbachev's efforts for world peace. He says: "As the Soviet chief of state, Gorbachev has ended the Cold War and transformed a bipolar or multipolar world into a much more universal world."

Commenting on the award, Socialist leader Oscar Guillermo Garreton says the new situation being generally experienced in the world "is a result of the changes implemented by Gorbachev in the USSR." He adds that, naturally, not all changes in the world can be attributed to Gorbachev, but emphasizes that Gorbachev was the leader who created the conditions for these changes.

Group Accuses Carabineros of Rights Violations

PY1610232890 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] The Commission for Youth Rights, Codeju, has reported that torture is still occurring in the country and that the Carabineros continue to violate human rights.

Codeju President Jose Antonio Sabat said this situation was discussed with Velisario Velasco, Interior Ministry under secretary. He added that his organization will release a detailed list of cases in the next few days.

Sabat also said he plans to meet with Interior Minister Enrique Krauss to report on the torture cases. He said these cases were reported after 11 March 1990 and involve mid-ranking Carabineros officers. He added that the cases involve people arrested for political reasons and for common crimes.

Sabat said this is not occurring on a massive scale, but the Carabineros have acted on their own, without government supervision, many times.

As for the accusations by a student organization that Codeju is linked to the Lautaro subversive group, Sabat denied the accusations.

Central Bank Reports Economic Growth Rate

PY1710024690 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] The Central Bank has reported that economic growth in the first eight months of this year reached 2.2 percent, while it reached 3.7 percent in the past 12 months.

According to the report, economic growth reached 0.6 percent in August, which represents a 0.4 percent increase with respect to the previous month. Economic growth reached 6.6 percent in January with respect to that of December 1989.

Colombia

Medellin Cartel Mole Discovered in DAS

PA1610161690 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Bogota—State security organizations are studying the significance of the discovery of an alleged counterespionage network within the Administrative Department of Security, DAS. The network is apparently linked to the Medellin Cartel.

According to the internal investigation, a beautiful Secret Police member identified as Agent X-5, whose name is Diana Fonseca, delivered highly confidential information to the late drug trafficker Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha. The information allowed a terrorist commando group to plant a car-bomb in DAS installations in Bogota; the bomb killed 70 persons and caused damage in excess of 3 billion pesos. The main goal of that terrorist plan was to eliminate DAS Director General Miguel Alfredo Maza Marquez, who was unharmed.

According to official reports, the agent used her physical attributes to get information and sold it to the narcoterrorists. The agents who arrested her in Bogota said that she told the terrorists the precise time when General Maza arrived at the DAS headquarters as well as his usual route. It was also reported that six other agents, who are accomplices, have been arrested.

Plans To Attack Pipeline, Oil Company Discovered

PA1710003490 Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 9 Oct 90 p24

[Text] The Defense Ministry has reported the discovery of an ELN [Army of National Liberation] plan to attack the Cano Limon oil pipeline installation and the offices of the Occidental Petroleum Company in Arauca.

The plan was discovered when Alirio Porras, alias "El Gato," was captured. He is a member of the Domingo Lain Front's urban network. He was carrying documents and plans for Cano Limon and Occidental Petroleum Company installations.

* General Situation in Medellin Seen Improving

90SM0266B Bogota SEMANA in Spanish 4 Sep 90 pp 26-29, 33

[Text] The three could not be any more different: one the descendant of one of the great dynasties of the past, one a representative of the contemporary bourgeoisie, and one the son of a self-educated shoemaker. They are: Maria Emma Mejia, presidential adviser for Medellin; newly-installed Governor Gilberto Echeverri Mejia; and Omar Florez, elected mayor in March. The trio bears on its shoulders responsibility for doing with Medellin what Christ told Lazarus to do: "Rise up and walk." Even if this is somewhat exaggerated, what Medellin needs is nothing less than a miracle, which is precisely what many observers are beginning to see.

After a year of a bloody war that has kept Medellin residents shut up in their homes, optimism and near euphoria now reign in the city. Streets, restaurants, and night spots closed for months are beginning to see their regulars return. Much of this new state of mind of the "Paisas" [Antioquians] has to do with a "magic moment" when a whole series of ideal conditions come together making one believe the recovery of the Antioquian capital is indeed possible. Ever since the "extraditables" announced a truce on 27 July, the crime rate in the city has dropped 70 percent and the number of police killed 90 percent. There is unquestionably a ceasefire. This fragile peace—but peace nevertheless—opens up a path on which the central and departmental governments are ready to bet their last card.

The steps they have taken to initiate the reorganization of the Antioquia capital began just days before Cesar Gaviria took office. Retiring President Barco removed a

number of prominent figures from the military leadership, including Medellin Police Commander Humberto Camero Maldonado, a move which, it is understood, was agreed upon with the president-elect. At that time, the militarization of the city was a fact and then mayor Juan Gomez was involved in a national controversy over his administration. The decision to make changes in the high military command in the metropolitan area has only now revealed all its ramifications, when the appointment of a whole series of Paisas to key government posts demonstrates the president's determination to have the problem of Medellin handled by civilians. Furthermore, the new team is to serve as an instrument to obtain what until only recently seemed impossible: revival of the city.

Of current Governor Gilberto Echeverri Mejia it can be said unequivocally that he is today the most popular figure in Antioquia. Not only does he have the approval of his fellow countrymen, but a long background of experience in high circles of power, public and private, which allows him to roam the halls of Bogota politics with ministerial authority. In a city where unanimity is impossible, there is nevertheless unanimous agreement that Echeverri is the man for the job. Mayor Omar Florez, elected by popular vote, has in the little time he has been in office exhibited great executive skills and the determination to rally his people around the ambitious Social Plan To Save Medellin. The powerful Antioquian unions, which the mayor pledged to bring into line through the national press, have already pledged two billion pesos to the project. The next link in the chain is the recently created Office of Adviser for the Rehabilitation of Medellin, headed by another Paisa, Maria Emma Mejia. Although the office will not have executive capacity, it represents a vital link in the coordination between departmental strategies and the Office of President, while at the same time symbolizing the special interest which the president has devoted to the reconstruction of Medellin. Maria Emma Mejia, who gained notice as a film director and political organizer, decided to stake it all on her country in a post requiring someone who "wears the pants."

Although this is the basic team that must be the driving force behind presidential policy on Antioquia, Gaviria's ministerial strategy includes two other Paisa officials who from a distance sustain the structure of this respite which the truce has provided. Minister of Public Works Juan Felipe Gaviria, another Paisa, has in his office the possibility of shoring up rehabilitation plans for Medellin, the most important of these being the creation of jobs, giving a boost to projects such as the suspended underground railway and the highway to the sea.

Foreign minister appointee Luis Fernando Jaramillo, with Antioquian blood in his veins, ensures the continuing presence of the Paisa theme in the offices of the Narino Palace. When, to this group of officials, one adds the fact that the minister of mines, although from the Coast, belongs to the Antioquian union, along with Gabriel Jaime Giraldo Gaviria, new director of the Institute of Territorial Credit which announced the construction of 500,000 housing units, then it is evident that the machinery of officials from Antioquia ranging from the marginal centers of Medellin to the presidency foreshadows a promising future for the long-suffering Antioquians.

The relative calm enjoyed by Medellin nevertheless shows signs of economic recovery and the historic moment of which Governor Echeverri spoke is gradually taking shape. In the hotel trade alone, occupancy rates in the past month have risen 70 percent. After a year of near paralysis and losses amounting to 20 billion pesos, restaurants are booming, offering 40,000 jobs. Although it is difficult to announce the practical economic results of the calm after the storm, it is a well-known fact that Antioquians have always been hard-working and are now showing signs of chomping at the bit.

On this basis, the new team in government (Governor Echeverri, Mayor Flores, and adviser Maria Emma) agree on the diagnosis of a need to channel the efforts of the public and private sector to low-income areas, breeding grounds for more than one problem in Medellin. With the social factor at the top of the list of priorities, the efforts of these three officials will be directed toward an efficient coordination of all available resources.

With budgets from international entities willing to get involved in the rehabilitation of the city which foreign newspapers unjustly labeled as "the drug capital of the world," the plan would turn these ghettos into livable areas. Legalization and rehabilitation of "wild-cat" ghettos and their conversion into an urban structure offering the necessary amenities, invite residents to consider them as real cities. The corner store, bakery, carpenter's shop, recreation and meeting places, would make it possible to break with the "bedroom community" concept, meaning districts with no activities of their own and therefore unable to promote the orderly, productive cohesion of inhabitants. In order to promote this plan, the Antioquia rehabilitation team will choose two or three of the so-called "subnormal settlements," areas which, with an absolute lack of planning, have grown disproportionately and in the midst of poverty in the mountains, converting them into a pilot rehabilitation plan. The experienced gathered by the National Rehabilitation Plan, whose positive results are beginning to be recognized by all, would serve as a guide for the new project.

And yet, not everything is rosy. Although the latest results of the National Sports have helped boost the spirits of Antioquians, some of the worst aspects of violence in the area still keep them awake at night. What is perhaps most alarming is that kidnappings continue apace. Sometimes publicly and sometimes secretly, the release of some Antioquian is constantly going on. Moreover, even if the truce is permanent—which is not certain—it will leave aftereffects of idle hired assassins that will take time and great effort to eliminate. Nevertheless, even with these reservations, anything is positive

compared with the immediate past. Antioquians never claimed that life could be perfect, only that they did have a right to live. They are now bent on regaining that right.

After spending many months in total darkness, Medellin and Antioquia are for the first time beginning to glimpse light at the end of the tunnel.

* Health Minister Discusses Plans

90SM0266A Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 24 Aug 90 p 9-c

[Interview with Health Minister Antonio Navarro Wolff by Maria Cristina Caballero, in his office; date not given]

[Text] One glance from the sky-blue eyes commands silence. Entrenched in his spacious, conservative office, he constantly gestures with his large, expressive, artistic hands, hands of the same size, some say, as his political aspirations.

Absorbed in thought, he reaches for a pen and grasps it just as firmly as he once did a field rifle, shooting out signatures. Ungainly, he is wearing one of his four woolen sport coats with a pure silk Roltia tie. He arrives at the office earlier than his employees, members of one of the largest armies he has ever commanded, and leaves later. Even larger, he says, was that of his 750,000 voters.

Antonio Navarro Wolff: a native of Pasto, 40ish, 6 feet tall, a sanitary engineer, perspicacious, and a bachelor. Is he in poor health? "No," he replies. Some think he must have an ulcer, but he says he has only had chicken pox, hepatitis, and malaria. He has also survived war and threats. He lost his left leg when a grenade exploded (1985) and still has shrapnel in his throat. A terrorist plan to assassinate him was thwarted last weekend.

It seems curious that this great grandson of a German who once proposed combining the military force of the M-19 with the Army, this man who once said his greatest engineering achievement was the Southern Front of the M-19, should now be in this office and in charge of the health and lives of 30 million Colombians. He knows that this is his option and the greatest challenge of the former M-19 guerrilla and now revolutionary political movement. He knows the post may be a stepping stone to the main door of the Casa de Narino, which may explain why he is so obsessive. Here on the central seventh floor, people are beginning to understand that his fragility is only apparent and that his gestures are absolute orders.

[Caballero] How is Bolivar's sword?

[Navarro Wolff] You'll have to ask Senator Victoria. I don't know anything about it. He got it out of a closet.

[Caballero] You were greeted by epidemics of gastroenteritis, water crises like that in Barranquilla. To what do you attribute the chaos in the water sector?

[Navarro Wolff] Decentralization was carried out abruptly, everything was turned over to the municipalities, and that was it. The water sector as such was eliminated. The municipalities have no planning capabilities or the capacity to manage water systems. In two years, a mayor cannot outline medium-range water programs. Patronage runs rampant.

[Caballero] What cases can you cite?

[Navarro Wolff] There are alarming reports, people taking water out of the system to sell and leaving it with no water.

[Caballero] What is the current function of the Ministry of Health with regard to the sector?

[Navarro Wolff] Only quality control. It is absurd!

[Caballero] Will you reorganize the sector?

[Navarro Wolff] I am interested in the drinking water problem. There is a crisis; people are dying of thirst. Urgent measures are needed.

[Caballero] There is no one visibly in charge. Will you take over that duty?

[Navarro Wolff] There is a water commission being formed by the Ministry of Public Works and to which the Ministry of Health belongs, but the Ministry of Public Works is concerned when there are floods and it has to build dikes. For them, water is a secondary problem, while for Health it is essential.

[Caballero] Will you take over?

[Navarro Wolff] I will study means to keep it from becoming a monster like INSFOPAL [Municipal Development Institute].

[Caballero] To what to you attribute the special confusion in Barranquilla?

[Navarro Wolff] To pure lack of organization. With the 7.5 cubic meters that go in the intake, one can supply the city, but the users get 2.5! For other cities, it is serious when turbidity exceeds one part per million. In Barranquilla, it is six! We shall find a solution.

[Caballero] What do you propose for the 35 percent who have no access to health services?

[Navarro Wolff] Working on how to create a subsidy and health insurance. There would be a single health insurance card providing access to public institutions, those belonging to Social Security, and private. It would operate with prepayment and subsidies and pay up to 100 percent for the poorest people.

[Caballero] Would it be oriented toward the primary sector?

[Navarro Wolff] This would be the beginning of institutional integration and increased coverage. This could cost $1 billion, but there would not only be government sources, but also the insurance or prepayment system.

[Caballero] Is it viable to carry it out in short-range terms?

[Navarro Wolff] At least we can leave the overall plan and begin it at the primary and secondary levels.

[Caballero] You have proposed a single health system. What would it consist of?

[Navarro Wolff] Services are now being provided by the ISS [Social Security Institute], private institutions, funds, and cooperatives. We propose to integrate them.

[Caballero] How will you solve the problem of overcrowded hospitals?

[Navarro Wolff] Some 85 percent of all cases can be handled at clinics. They must be set up and equipped and referral systems clarified.

[Caballero] Until you obtain additional resources, how will you face the deficit of over 20 billion?

[Navarro Wolff] Hospitals will operate with advance payments from the insured.

[Caballero] You have taken steps with international banks to finance programs?

[Navarro Wolff] The IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] and the World Bank have an interest in negotiating credits. We are going to submit a credit package to be used to control malaria, which is on the increase, to finance the National Hospital Center, and equip hospitals.

[Caballero] You said you would lower the cost of drugs. How will you do so?

[Navarro Wolff] I said that? We are going to control the cost insofar as possible.

[Caballero] You announced you would lower the cost of essential drugs, given the magnitude of the demand.

[Navarro Wolff] There must be a group of essential drugs with a different cost than the rest. From that standpoint, there can be a relative reduction in costs. You are right; I did speak about that. We shall talk with the laboratories.

[Caballero] The Ministry of Health will take over the price controls of the Ministry of Development?

[Navarro Wolff] A bill will be submitted on that topic. It is necessary.

[Caballero] Concerning the hospitals, what will your priority be?

[Navarro Wolff] Creating a standardized system of administration. Now it is a little technical. No hospital knows how much a patient costs.

[Caballero] You seemed to want to be minister of education rather than of health. You even organized assemblies at ADE [District Association of Teachers] headquarters.

[Navarro Wolff] That's because we have friends in that sector, even among the rectors. (He laughs.)

[Caballero] In your election program, you devote 25 columns to health policy and 101 to education.

[Navarro Wolff] [He bursts out laughing.] That was done in haste, but I know the sector. Years ago, I coordinated community medical programs.

[Caballero] You once said these programs were a joke, that that was one of the reasons you joined the M-19.

[Navarro Wolff] The fact is that in those programs, we set up models of integrated development that needed land and we never got it. I came to the conclusion that we were talking about development but were not getting it.

[Caballero] Are you afraid the same thing will happen in this ministry?

[Navarro Wolff] I know there are restrictions such as red tape and patronage. In order to have control, we need the participation of the community.

[Caballero] In remote areas, what gaps did you experience in the health field?

[Navarro Wolff] A mixture of herbs and magic prevailsd. They cured my stomach aches with guava shoots and it worked; I swear it! The Chinese promote barefoot doctors, promoters who know how to use plants.

[Caballero] Do you plan to rescue that wisdom?

[Navarro Wolff] It has to be appreciated. For the time being, we cannot set up health centers everywhere.

[Caballero] Your predecessor set up 4,000 community participation committees. Will you promote them?

[Navarro Wolff] We shall see the real status of those committees, their functions and real power. They will be a central element.

[Caballero] How many members of the EME [M-19] will you "recruit"?

[Navarro Wolff] The natives. We will not practice patronage.

[Caballero] What is your opinion of Law 10 of this year which reorganizes the national health system?

[Navarro Wolff] It has good elements relating to organization of the sector, community participation....

[Caballero] What do you plan to do about the persistent deficit in the sector?

[Navarro Wolff] We must revise and complement the financial system. Health gets four percent of the budget and it must be made efficient.

[Caballero] There are complaints about the high cost of private health. As a person who has criticized the monopolies, what do you plan to do?

[Navarro Wolff] We are going to analyze them and make decisions.

[Caballero] When you were with the guerrillas, did you dream about being a minister?

[Navarro Wolff] When we joined the guerrillas, we thought we could not govern. We never imagined participating in a shared government, but the country wants a government of national unity and we are cooperating in that effort.

[Caballero] Do you think that if Pizarro were alive, he would be the minister?

[Navarro Wolff] He should be here, not I, but he died and I carried on.

[Caballero] As minister, is your life at greater risk?

[Navarro Wolff] Obviously, but we shall have a special security plan.

[Caballero] Are there more threats?

[Navarro Wolff] The problem is not that they bark but that they bite! They kill if they can. We are ready to defend ourselves.

[Caballero] What will your goal of coverage be?

[Navarro Wolff] Between 85 and 90 percent in the primary and secondary sectors.

[Caballero] What do you think of the summons they made to Congress within 24 hours of your taking office?

[Navarro Wolff] I expect to shine on 5 September!

Ecuador

* Demands of Indigenous Movement Detailed

90SM0270A Quito VISTAZO in Spanish
6 Sep 90 pp 75-80

[Report by Mariana Neira and Fernando Salme]

[Text] The June uprising resulted in increased attention paid to the problem of the indigenous population. Since that time, in an atmosphere shot through with resentment, the government and Indians have engaged in a cold dialogue constantly interrupted by disagreement. The Indians have subsequently given more importance to the First Continental Conference on 500 Years of Indian Resistance held in Quito from 17 to 21 July as part of the program outlined in Bogota in October 1989 at the Continental Conference of Indigenous and Peasant Organizations and aimed at "confronting the 500th anniversary" of the arrival of Colombus and his three ships on American soil.

Indian International

The Quito conference was attended by delegates from 120 Indian nations, international organizations, and fraternal organizations that signed the Quito Declaration reiterating their rejection of the celebration of the Fifth Centennial and expressing their decision to turn "the date into an opportunity to strengthen our process of unity and continental struggle for our liberation." They also ratified "our political purpose of self-determination and the conquest of our autonomy within the framework of national states, under a new people's order...defending our culture, education, and religion.... We challenge the legal frameworks of nations which are the fruit of the process of colonization and neocolonialism.... We condemn the fact that we the Indian people are the victims of violence and persecution.... The response to 1992 must be one of unity and mobilization."

Military Intelligence Report

In the early days of August, a military intelligence report signed by (retired) General Galo Almeida Nieto and (retired) Colonel Miguel A. Camacho C. was published. Admiral Hugo Unda Aguirre, chairman of the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff, sent it to the minister of defense, General Jorge Felix Mena, on 21 December 1989, who passed it on to President Borja on 23 January 1990. In his memorandum, the minister makes an interpretive summary of the "evaluation" of the Indian problem to which Unda refers. The minister states that "the current state of organization initially comes from the missionary orientation of the progressive Church." These organizations developed subsequently as the result of the "influence of our country's political parties on the far left and outside interference exercised through the political, economic, educational, technological, and doctrinal support conveyed by the international system of scholarships which enables leaders of these indigenous organizations to receive training in countries connected with international guerrilla groups."

Agreement With the Government The dialogue was to be renewed with the minister of government on 22 August, but on precisely that day, the Indian leaders succeeded in obtaining a meeting with President Borja. They submitted their "historic proposal" to him putting an end to any dialogue because the president called the proposal unconstitutional and an attempt on national sovereignty.

The document they presented is entitled "Agreement on the Territorial Rights of the Quechua, Shiwiar, and Achuar Nations in Pastaza Province To Be Entered Into With the Ecuadoran Government." The third chapter contains concrete proposals of a legal, institutional, political, and administrative order. However, what concerns the government the most in the chapter is the following: "The self-determination and autonomy of Indian peoples is also a principle widely sanctioned in international law and should be enforced by this government, particularly when the latter constitutionally proclaims itself as a plurinational and multiethnic country, which it indeed is. Enforcement of these principles implies: 1) self-government of Indian peoples in their territories and full enjoyment of their traditional rights; and 2) that as a result of the foregoing, it is necessary to modify or eliminate the political and administrative system (parishes, cantons, provincial jurisdictions, civil registry, and so on) in indigenous territories."

Diversity of Opinions

According to the president of CONAIE [Federation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador], Cristobal Tapuy, the document presented to the president is being used by the government "to try to confuse the Ecuadoran people. What we are demanding is the legalization of territories in the Amazon region and a solution to land disputes in the mountains in order to develop there in keeping with

our own way of life. We do not want our own government because we shall continue to work as we have up to now through our organizations." He explains that what they want is "autonomy, like the Armed Forces, which have their own land, elementary and secondary schools, universities, hospitals, even a bank named after an Indian!" When asked whether, in order for soil to be tilled, permission would have to be granted, he replied: "If I own my home, then no one can come in without my permission."

Tapuy does not believe there is any reason for the government to be alarmed when it recently legalized land ownership in the Amazon region. Minister Verduga confirmed that about three months ago, 600,000 hectares were turned over to the Huaoranis or Aucas, totaling some 1,000 persons.

Tapuy also recalls that during his administration, "President Borja recognized the Ecuadoran Government as plurinational and multilingual, just as at Manaos at the Amazon summit conference."

However, Minister Cesar Verduga is of the opinion that the demand now "is 'maximalist,' unconstitutional, and therefore doomed to failure."

For Ignacio Perez Arteta, president of the Chamber of Agriculture of the 1st Zone, the proposal demonstrates that "the movement is political and not of the peasantry." The 16 points they presented in the beginning were only a show. "What they really want is what they proposed to the president, which is precisely what military intelligence predicted eight months ago."

In contrast, Monsignor Antonio Arregui, secretary general of the Ecuadoran Episcopal Conference, believes that in the document "the Indians were probably unable to express or do not know exactly what is viable in order not to destroy national unity. National public opinion favors reasonable demands, but it could all be ruined if their goals try to divide the government or if there is a repetition of violence from which they would also be the victims."

Concerning the Armed Forces intelligence report, Tapuy believes it "is for the purpose of justifying repression and massacres that might occur because Indians will no longer remain silent and are demanding justice. However, they must not therefore confuse us with guerrillas. Indigenous peoples have always been warriors, but not guerrillas."

He admitted that some Indians have studied in socialist countries, but also in other nations, "as many Ecuadorans do. When Indians go elsewhere to study, however, they attract attention. Furthermore, those who have studied in Russia are not even working with us."

Not One More Ranch

In connection with the coming 500th anniversary, Indians are emphasizing a phrase that pits them against landowners: "Not One More Ranch by 1992." We asked Tapuy whether the slogan would be obeyed to the letter and he replied: "These are pronouncements made by the rank and file and we cannot tell them not to make them. We have to go along. They say there are properties that do not fulfill their social function and that must therefore be transferred to the indigenous community."

For Verduga, this is "another kind of maximalist slogan that hurts the movement and provokes negative reactions."

The government admits that the indigenous population has problems that are centuries old. Their solution is not only up to the government, but all Ecuadorans. Everyone agrees on this point and on giving general treatment to the issue for the common good rather than the specific benefit of certain groups. "They have tried to sell the Indian image as tied in with peasant and land issues, but this is not true because there are peasants who are mestizos, White, Black, Chinese, and coastal dwellers. Among the peasants is a group of poorer Indians. This cannot be denied; it would be foolish to do so," says Perez Arteta. He observes that peasants are the victims of discriminatory treatment. There is one minimum wage for farm workers and another for city workers, peasant insurance, political prices. "Through the years, those who have sounded the alert to the situation of the peasants have been the agricultural centers and chambers."

Racist Movement?

Demands for benefits exclusively for Indians lead the rest of the Ecuadoran people to believe the movement has a racist tinge. Tapuy says that "anyone who brings up racism is the first racist. In some way, we must begin to express our own needs. After 500 years of resistance, we are beginning to raise our voices. No one paid any attention before, no one listened to us, and now they call us racist and claim we are being politically manipulated by extremists."

For the minister of government, "To call the movement racist would not be fair, but to ignore that there are aspects of racism in many proposals would be naive."

For his part, Monsignor Arregui believes "the government must help the weakest groups more, but we do not accept the view that the Indian race is weaker. They would not accept this themselves because it is contradictory. What is important is that they have equal opportunity and in order for this to occur, given the real situation that exists, special affirmative action must be taken."

In contrast, the chamber official believes the Indians have gone beyond racism: "They are moving into Naziism of the pure race."

Avoiding Another Uprising

There is a clearly perceptible intention in the air of avoiding another uprising. The minister of government also warns that officials will be implacable with anyone (Indians or landowners who threaten to defend themselves using anything they have) who violates the law.

Concerning the radicalization of positions to the point of generating rural guerrilla bands, Verduga says: "I do not think this is a real possibility in the country today because they have the public attention they deserve." In contrast, Perez admits the possibility because "the government let the problem grow when, just after taking office, it allowed the first invasion. Febres Cordero did not permit this."

How To Solve Problems

As far as the future is concerned, those interviewed make their own proposals for solving the Indian problem. Their leaders have already expressed them in their 16 points. For his part, the minister of government says his resolve to handle the matter is so firm that he has created commissions to simultaneously analyze and present solutions to the 16 initial proposals. Indians express some distrust of the offers because "when the government had all the power it did nothing, and now it will say it can do nothing because of opposition in Congress."

The Chamber of Agriculture is presenting technical administrative alternatives for relieving one problem: the division of landholdings into excessively small parcels and the resulting productive inefficiency. Indians ask how it can be efficient if the Agrarian Reform only gave them land but no technical assistance, credits, materials, and so on. They also observe that they produce the food for domestic consumption, while large landowners devote their land to livestock raising or export products.

Even if solutions to the problems are still pending, "we shall celebrate the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America," says Cesar Verduga.

Military Position

In response to a request from VISTAZO, the minister of defense, General Jorge Felix Mena, presented the official position of the military instituion as follows:

"The Armed Forces are born of our nation, which is made up of all Ecuadorans who, for irreversible geographic and historic reasons, share a wide range of common aspects that identify us internally and internationally as an entity. In the face of this reality, the Armed Forces are willing to provide their complete support to avoid confrontations and seek peaceful solutions to preserve the national integrity and integration.

"In the face of events such as those that have occurred and that are part of the public domain, it is logical and obvious that a number of studies have been completed. To fail to conduct them would have been an irresponsible omission, but it must also be made clear that the Armed Forces have never published any report on this or other topics.

"The military intelligence reports to which one of your questions refers are the fruit of strictly technical, objective procedures based on duly confirmed reports. They are the work of experts in active service or retired, which is neither significant nor relevant, but what is important to note is that they are devoid of any private interest or political bias and are solely aimed at serving the national interest and achieving the objectives of planning security.

"The Armed Forces cannot reduce an analysis of the problem of the indigenous population to an alleged subservience to outside instructions or the training of their leaders in foreign countries. We are well-acquainted with indigenous problems because we in the Armed Forces have traveled the entire Ecuadoran territory, sharing the living conditions of all social sectors. In addition, the ranks of the institution include a significant number of citizens of these origins who can, based on their merit and efforts, gain access, under equal conditions, to all opportunities offered by a military career, with no discrimination based on race or any other consideration.

"We believe that reasons do exist for the demands of the indigenous people and other social groups, but in no way does this imply the right, based on factionalizing positions, to cause chaos and endanger the very existence of the state or, using unconstitutional and illegal actions, worsen the already profound crisis in which the country now finds itself. In order to emerge from this crisis the government has called for a unifying consensus.

"In this sense, we believe that solutions must be achieved through a fruitful and realistic dialogue and without inflexible positions that would render this civilized mechanism futile. Using all means available to us, we are willing to join in actions involving patriotic, creative work aimed at finding responses to problems that are not solely the affair of the government or the Armed Forces, but rather, all Ecuadorans.

"The Armed Forces want no confrontations between Ecuadorans and for that very reason, do not believe that either landowners or the Indians have the right to take up arms and engage in acts of violence which, as has happened in other countries, only worsen differences and sow irreconcilable hatred. For that reason, we appeal to the wisdom of all social sectors and express our faith that no circumstance will ever occur making it necessary to use the nation's weapons against any group of Ecuadorans.

"During the past indigenous uprising, our officers and enlisted men set an example of wisdom, prudence, and supreme valor in overcoming difficult circumstances without adopting attitudes that would only have caused the nation pain. We hope that in the future such circumstances may be avoided so that no episodes will occur for which history will harshly judge those responsible."

Leaders

Cesar Cristobal Tapuy Papa is president of the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (CONFENIAE) and was born to an Indian family on Dia de la Raza in 1948.

"I am of Quechuan nationality from the Amazon region," says this 42-year-old man who became a leader at the age of 27. Cesar, the eldest of seven brothers,

reached adolescence under the guidance of the Josephine missionaries at the Pope John 23rd Technical High School in Tena from which he graduated in 1967. Cristobal Tapuy is married to Serafina Aguinda Tanguila, also Quechuan and a nurse's aide, and has four children.

In 1983, he became president of the Federation of Indigenous Organizations of Napo and a year later was named president of CONFENIAE. Since 1988, he has been president of CONAIE.

Luis Vargas

The president of the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Amazon Region of Ecuador was born on 7 July 1947 in Copataza, an Achuar community in Pastaza. He has been an Indian leader since 1978.

He is the father of five children. His only son was born to his first wife, who left him a widower. He married for the second time in 1973 to Celia Santi, who "is not from the same community. The community into which I was born is clearly Achuar. My wife is from the San Jacinto commune close to El Puyo." From this second marriage he has four daughters.

Manuel Imbaquingo

The secretary general of ECUARUNARI [expansion unknown] is Manuel Imbaquingo, who was born in the commune of Pijal on the shores of Lake San Pablo on 15 March 1955.

In order to complete elementary school, he had to go to work as a farm laborer. Manuel has no idea who his father is: "I was raised by my mother. I have no father."

His community work goes back to 1967, when he worked in literacy training. "I have worked with the Quechua-speaking community since I was 12, first as a literacy teacher and then as a leader."

Paraguay

Foreign Minister Refuses Comment on Towell

PY1610131090 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 16 Oct 90 p 10

[Text] Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken has refused to make an official comment on the remarks that U.S. Ambassador Timothy Towell made over the past weekend about an alleged state laziness in the enactment of a new labor law, a matter that U.S. authorities consider important in order to lift the restrictions imposed on our country by the Generalized System of Preferences.

"I am not going to comment on that topic," the minister told the press. Notwithstanding, he recalled that when he met with State Department officials in Washington no one told him that Paraguay would not be admitted to the Generalized System of Preferences.

Rodriguez Also Declines Comment

PY1710022690 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television in Spanish 2235 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Today President Rodriguez dedicated a multisport stadium in the township of Arasape in Misiones Department. [passage omitted]

Shortly after the ceremony, Rodriguez made remarks to the press.

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Reporter] Have you analyzed U.S. Ambassador Towell's remarks against your government?

[Rodriguez] No, I have not made any comment about that.

[Reporter] What do you think about Ambassador Towell's remarks that the government is not very concerned about the need to submit a bill for the labor sector?

[Rodriguez] I would like you to ask the ambassador this question. He may have a more appropriate answer to the question. [end recording]

President Authorizes Purchase of Argentine Oil

PY1610144490 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 16 Oct 90 p 11

[Excerpt] Close to noon on 15 October President Andres Rodriguez summoned Industry and Commerce Minister Antonio Zuccolillo and Petropar [Paraguayan Petroleum, Inc.] president Desiderio Enciso to discuss the purchase of oil from the Province of Formosa, Argentina. The chief of state ordered the purchase of crude oil from the neighboring country, and to this effect Petropar will have to launch an international bid for the supply of oil.

After the meeting Zuccolillo remarked to the press that the purchase of oil from Formosa was the only topic discussed during the meeting. "It has been verified that we are in a position to transport that crude oil and process it in the refinery for a better price than oil from some other areas," referring to the oil that Petropar imports from Africa.

He said: "In this way it is quite certain that the appropriate steps will be taken this week and that by next week an international bid will be out in which Government Oil Deposits (YPF) [Argentina] will be able to participate because they are offering a better price. We believe that they (YPF) will submit the best price in the bid." [passage omitted]

Cavalry Division Commander on Coup, Rodriguez

PY1710014290 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 14 Oct 90 Sunday Magazine pp 2, 3, 4

[Report on interview with General Lino Cesar Oviedo, 1st Cavalry Division commander, by Mabel Rehnfeldt in Asuncion; date not given; all quotation marks as received]

[Excerpts] At the outset, General Lino Oviedo said that General Andres Rodriguez, who held the post of 1st Cavalry Division commander for many years, was the man who led the movement for institutionalization of the Armed Forces. "He had a lump in his throat for many years because he did not want the Armed Forces to be a tool in the hands of 'a group'—which they were. The Armed Forces are entrusted with the country's territorial integrity and sovereignty. This means they should maintain as a whole all that is within the nation, which includes all citizens and their interests, and make no distinction between Paraguayans and foreigners, as is established in the national Constitution and laws.

"That mission is entrusted to the Armed Forces, and that is why we cannot show a special inclination toward a given party or sector. Administration of the Constitution and laws demands a great spirit of impartiality, patriotism, and forbearance and great morals because when commanders lose all sense of shame, subordinates lose all respect for them."

General Oviedo went on to say: "That is a difficult, and sometimes unrewarding, mission because there are always malcontents; I mean people who have hidden interests and want to live with no respect for the Constitution and laws. They are the people who want to find flaws, cracks, and faults to criticize us for. However, we know that the members of the Armed Forces, because they are human, cannot be free of errors. However, we led the movement toward democracy and, in a democracy, we can hear criticism if it is sincere, respectful, and constructive."

[Rehnfeldt] You said there was a group who used the Armed Forces for their benefit. What group are you specifically referring to?

[Oviedo] I am optimistic. If we really want to build a new society, we should not harbor rancor nor encourage dissent. I do not want to hurt feelings or susceptibilities. If some people erred or were misguided, so be it. Let us throw the mantle of friendship over them and, if they change their mind and their course, why not pardon them? A wise dictum says: To err is human, to forgive is divine.

[Rehnfeldt] Then, would you accept the return of the militants [the Colorado Party faction that supported the government of General Alfredo Stroessner] to the political arena?

[Oviedo] There are five areas of power—political, military, economic, psychosocial, and technical. I would not like to express opinions in the political area because I have always guided my conduct with proverbs that are based on everyday life. If I were to say something in the political area, the politicians would say: "But why is Gen. Oviedo talking about politics! What does a fish know about flying! So, I do not want people to refer to me in that way.

[Rehnfeldt] But doesn't what happens in the political area affect you as a citizen?

[Oviedo] I will leave the answer to the many politicians we now have. Some people have their own experience; others only have vicarious experience. I do not want to go into the political area. [passage omitted]

[Rehnfeldt] For the people, you are a legend they came to know after the coup [2-3 February 1989] and about whom they hear a lot, good or bad..., at times comments about your disagreements with Gen. Andres Rodriguez or with General Humberto Garcete [1st Army Corps commander]... I suppose these rumors may have reached your own ears...

[Oviedo] Those people are looking for disagreements. The commander in chief is like an older brother to me; he has known me since I was a child, since I started work. I began my career under his command, and all my life I have been under his command. I was his assistant for seven years.

Gen. Humberto Sanchez was my instructor at the Military College. We grew up together, we went to elementary school together, and we believe in the same cause. We do not have a thirst for power nor command. We are not in these posts to help ourselves, and we are open to anyone who wants to see what are we doing and what we are up to here.

I can tell you that I am deeply committed to the humble people's sentiments because I am of humble birth. There is no soldier under my command, in any remote part of the national territory, who has gone without a meal.

[Rehnfeldt] The people continue to fear the military chiefs; more so, those in some branches who have committed abuses. What is your opinion on this?

[Oviedo] If we had been afraid, we would not have launched the 2 February action. People will eventually cease to be afraid; if they do not, they will always be afraid.

[Rehnfeldt] Excuse me, but people are afraid of the military chiefs, afraid of their arrogance, afraid of the way they take advantage of their rank...

[Oviedo] Do not believe it... you can see how any callow citizen who has not even discharged his military obligation can accuse us, accuse us in general terms. I do not agree with them. They throw stones and hide their hands. Why don't they accuse the man who is at fault?

[Rehnfeldt] I repeat: They are afraid of abuses of power...

[Oviedo] Have you, journalists, ever been insulted for telling the truth in newspapers, radios, or television? I ask you to give me an example of occasions when journalists have been threatened, sanctioned, or arrested for having written articles that not only had a ring of defiance, but even of slander. I have never heard of journalists being sanctioned, arrested, or even, reprimanded. Do you know of such a case?

You must report it, say "We know that general, or colonel, or lieutenant so and so has received money and has allowed a truckload of cattle to be smuggled."

[Rehnfeldt] If those facts are reported in the papers, will you take appropriate action?

[Oviedo] That is why I say that democracy is not for the immoral and cowardly. It will do no good to give us the opportunity to express our sentiments, views, and concerns, for us to comment on abnormalities or denounce abnormalities, if we do not take advantage of the opportunity. If we do not, democracy will not be good for anything. [passage omitted]

[Rehnfeldt] If the dignity and institutionalization of the Armed Forces is again in danger, will we have a new 2-3 February?

[Oviedo] The dignity of the Armed Forces is, in principle, an accomplished fact. Democracy is irreversible in Paraguay. Anyone who attempts to change that trend will pay for it with his life.

And, as for the possibility of having another 2-3 February, I do not see any, because we would have to disappear for that to happen, along with the tools and the arms we have in our hands to defend our movement

Today, they would have to trample on our corpses to get us out of the way.

Yesterday, with only one-third of the arms in our hands, we were able to dignify the Armed Forces and democracy; today, with more arms in our hands... the odds against a coup are 100 to one. I can tell my countrymen that the probability of a reactionary revolution is no more than one percent because who are we going to rise up against? Against ourselves? There is no member of the Armed Forces with a thirst for power here.

What is more, institutionalization of the Armed Forces is with us; there will no longer be generals holding posts 25-30 years. When I joined the Armed Forces to wear the olive-green uniform in 1958, the generals in command were the same who were in command when I was about to go home. Today, the situation is different. Even if I was a miracle worker I could not remain as commander of this unit for more than five years (as the Constitution dictates). I will have to give the opportunity to a colleague. Moreover, I have no strong attachment to the post because we are not using it for our own benefit. We have to report to work early and go home late in order to set an example, which is the best way to command. If I want honest, capable, punctual, and respectful soldiers, I have to be an example.

[Rehnfeldt] I am speaking of the possibility of an aggression that the Armed Forces might consider very serious...

[Oviedo] What I would like to know... inhabitants from other countries, for example, would have to come...

[Rehnfeldt] Are you referring to the Brazilians?

[Oviedo] I do not want to talk about fantasies. I like to walk on firm ground. I am a man who likes to touch, feel, see, and palpate things. I do not want to say anything about something I do not know very well. That is why I did not talk politics with you before.

[Rehnfeldt] What do you think about rumors that you are involved in dirty deals?

[Oviedo] People do not tell me directly: "General Oviedo is involved in smuggling." I would like them to tell me. I stay in my barracks all day. I have never been to the border to make my truck or animals cross the border. I have no ranches. I spend the entier day with my soldiers, and this makes me happy.

"I have eaten corn, beans, and manioc throughout my life. I was born in the country, and I am happy about being a humble peasant. I do not want to meddle in high society because I get very embarrassed. As the saying goes: What's bred in the bone will come out in the flesh. This may be the reason for my attitude.

"Time and again, many people have tried to blame me because I reject thievery, heavy-handedness, and those who use the law to their own advantage. I have never violated traffic laws. I have never raided other people's stores, customs, or the ministries. I have never recommended that anybody hold a public post. You can ask about this. When anybody wants to involve me in a matter, I tell him: "You can file a charge against me. I will go to the court without weapons, like a mere citizen."

"They will throw their darts, but lies will not go far."

Concerning the charges that have been made, Oviedo said: "Cowards and those who promote dubious objectives are the ones who hit and run. Anybody who wants to correct something should say: "I have observed this official of this institution improperly using the personnel or property of that institution." That is what has to be done.

[Rehnfeldt] If we now provide the names of some military involved in illegal activities, are you going to take appropriate measures?

[Oviedo] We are taking measures against any suspicious or irregular situation that may exist within a military institution.

[Rehnfeldt] There have always been charges, and some charges have been very specific. Smuggling has always been the Achilles heel of the Armed Forces. We think you are aware that some of your colleagues take advantage of their positions to engage in smuggling; sometimes, on a large scale... If you do not take any measures, do you think people will dare to do so?

[Oviedo] I will tell you plainly. If I am aware that any one of my subordinates is engaging in any type of irregular activity, you can rest assured that he will be punished in keeping with military regulations and laws. Laws are for civilians and regulations are for the military. The terms are similar, but we are given a stricter sanction, taking into account our position as military at the service of the nation.

[Rehnfeldt] You may have learned about colleagues who are engaged in dirty deals...

[Oviedo] The ABC newspaper recently published an article on the judge of Bella Vista, a township where the smuggling of animals and logs has been detected. Why didn't this judge, who represents justice, not take measures? If I were the court president, I would have brought this judge to court on charges of being unqualified for his duties and of supporting irregularities. "This is why I said at the beginning that cowardly and corrupt people should not discharge official duties in a democracy."

Media Chiefs Concerned Over Telecom Law

PY1610174490 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1751 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Kansas City, United States, 15 Oct (EFE) — In their addresses to the Inter-American Press Society (SIP) meeting, which began its deliberations today in Kansas City, editors and publishers of Paraguayan newspapers today expressed their concern about certain aspects of a draft communications law in their country.

Aldo Zuccolillo, publisher of the newspaper ABC COLOR, told EFE that "this is another threat against the freedom of the press that is much more subtle and crafty than the brute-force law that was imposed by the military dictatorship."

Zuccolillo said: "Within the framework of democracy, political, labor, and economic leaders are trying to impose laws and conditions that gag the freedom of the press."

The Paraguayan publisher was referring to a law that specifies that a university title or a union card is required to carry out the work of a journalist.

In his address to the SIP Press Freedom Committee, Zuccolillo reported on a legal proposal that will compel journalists to request "authorization from the Radio Broadcasting Council (which has yet to be created) on the basis of a professional card issued by the respective union or on a legally recognized title."

According to Zuccolillo, this "crafty maneuver" could "result in the dangerous situation of being obliged become a union member to be a member of the profession."

Zuccolillo also reported that an article of the current Electoral Law obliges the media to dedicate three percent of its daily space for the dissemination of the programs of political parties, alliances, and of independent candidates during the 10 days prior to the closure of election campaigns." [quotation marks as received]

In remarks to EFE, Christian Torres, associate publisher of the newspaper NOTICIAS EL DIARIO, criticized a proposed study by Congress of an antimonopoly law that would affect enterprises that have more than one type of media, which would, in his opinion, place obstacles in the activities of the networks.

Torres also expressed his concern to the SIP over the possibility that this draft law, which will be debated during the next legislative period, will affect existing and future networks "as is the case of antimonopoly laws in other countries."

Peru

Central Bank Head on Financial, Monetary Reform

PY1610114290 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 6 Oct 90 p A-1

[Text] Economist Jorge Chavez Alvarez, the newly appointed president of the Central Reserve Bank, yesterday announced that medium-term financial and monetary reforms will be studied, adding that the reforms will include replacing the national currency.

He expressed "concern" about the current situation, considering the difference between the interest paid to savings deposits and the interest charged on loans—now that the latter has surpassed the inflation rate and is affecting savings and the productive sector.

This announcement is regarded as an indication that the banking system should begin to adjust to current inflation levels.

Commercial banks are currently charging an average monthly interest of 15 percent on loans, while they are paying eight to 8.5 percent per month on savings. Meanwhile, official and private institutions have reported that the inflation rate stands at four percent in September.

Chavez announced that the policy of restricting the issue of money will continue, especially regarding the reduction of credits to the government. This policy was initiated with the emergency measures. He praised the Treasury's efforts to increase tax revenues and to reduce the fiscal imbalance.

The new bank president said that the bank's executive board will study a way to "progressively" reducing the interest rate difference, or "spread" [preceding word in English] as it is known in bank jargon.

Chavez Alvarez addressed these matters with the journalists after being sworn-in at 1700 yesterday by Supreme Court chairman Eloy Espinosa Saldana Catasus.

Reform To Be Implemented After hyperinflation Curbed

It is presumed that, following the technical analyses and debates, the monetary reform will be set in motion early next year, once hyperinflation has been curbed. The reduction of the spread, however, could be on the agenda of the first executive board meeting, which is scheduled for 9 October.

The level of interest rates, which the productive sector regards as too high compared to the low inflation rate, have prompted demands from this sector because business institutions consider that the spread between the

interest paid on savings (an average eight percent) and the interest paid on loans (15 percent) is too big.

The sowing of cotton, rice, and other edible crops are being delayed because—according to specialized sources—farmers believe that the interest charged on loans is too high for the current low prices of their products.

Chavez Alvarez heads the bank executive board, which is also made up of three representatives of the executive branch: Martha Rodriguez, Esteban Hnylizca, and German Suarez Chavez; and three representatives of the Senate: Julio Velarde Flores, Hector Flores Samanez, and Jorge Raygada.

Chavez Alvarez was sworn in at the Ambassadors' Hall of the Supreme Court. The ceremony was attended by high-ranking judges, Central Bank officials, and officials of the Ministry of Economy.

Chavez Alvarez replaces Pedro Coronado Labo, who resigned the post two years ago and who was replaced by the then Central Bank vice president Carlos Capunay Mimbela, who became acting bank president.

Chavez Alvarez was sworn in 24 hours after his designation was confirmed by the Senate.

Shining Path Reportedly Inflicting Terror in Junin

PY1610164090 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2049 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Lima, 15 Oct (EFE)—It was reported today in Lima that an armed "Shining Path" group of about 500 members has established its field of action in the jungle region of Junin Department and is inflicting terror among the people.

The rebels have established their field of action in the high zones of Satipo province, from where they go to seek reinforcements or to attack military garrisons and the general headquarters of the Antisubversive Police Corps, called the "Sinchis," in that region.

During their incursions through several towns, in addition to murdering and destroying, the "Shining Path" terrorists recruit peasants and settlers under threats of death. This information, together with "Shining Path" plans, was revealed to the Lima newspaper EXPRESO by people who managed to escape from the terrorists.

The "Sinchis" garrison is located in Mozamari which is 30 km from Satipo, the provincial capital, and some 500 km east of Lima.

According to those people, the terrorists have razed the communities of Gloriabamba, Kirikari, Chiriari, Alto Saureni, and Dos de Mayo, from where they abducted by force men, women, and children to join their cadres.

They added that like this the terrorists have put together a contingent of about 400 people, most of whom are forced to fight. They are trained and led by 30 "Shining Path" activists.

According to witnesses, the Shining Path is strongest is a region where there are some 500 peasants communities, including Puerto Ocopa, Pangoa, Sonomoro, and San Martin. These communities are populated by native peasants and settlers.

The action of the Maoist organization has caused an exodus of residents from several communities that had settled in Mazamari, where they are protected by the Antisubversive Police Corps, whose commanders have increased patrol activities and vigilance.

Indians from the inner jungle area, who live in a region east of Satipo, reported recently that Shining Path columns have murdered at least 200 people.

Guyana

Jagan Calls for Additional Election Reforms

FL1610165590 Bridgetown CANA in English 1600 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Oct 16, CANA—Guyana's opposition leader Cheddi Jagan, welcoming the government's decision to allow a preliminary count of ballots at polling stations and order a complete revision of the voters list, says he will push for more electoral reforms.

Government announced the two concessions at the weekend after a visit by former United States President Jimmy Carter who has been invited to observe forthcoming elections, due by next March. The counting of ballots at the place of poll and an acceptable voters list have been longstanding opposition demands for the holding of free and fair elections here.

"This is only preliminary to the victory," Dr. Jagan told CANA. "From all that is now happening after the visit of President Carter, we seem to be on the road to having free and fair elections."

Among additional reforms which Dr. Jagan said he would seek are the appointment of a new chairman of the elections commission and an expansion of the commission's membership; the appointment of a new chief elections officer; and an end to the practice of the military casting their ballots before polling day.

Dr. Jagan said he would discuss these proposals with President Desmond Hoyte and elections commission Chairman Sir Harold Bollers. Jagan, who heads the People's Progressive Party (PPP), cited other reforms which he said were necessary for the holding of free and fair elections.

He wants the entire electoral machinery under the direct control of the elections commission, including the selection and appointment of officials; a substantial increase in the number of offices where citizens can make queries concerning the voters list; and an extension in the opening of these offices—there are currently 70—from two to three hours. Jagan said he believed these measures could be implemented within six months.

Jagan, who has repeatedly accused the ruling People's National Congress (PNC) of rigging previous elections to stay in power, said the government agreed to the recent reforms for three reasons:

—the likelihood of a suspension of badly needed Western aid if evidence showed the next elections were fraudulent; a continued mass exodus of Guyanese, robbing the country of skills needed for the success of the government's economic recovery programme; and the prospect of unrest, particularly among the youth, who, Jagan said, "are not going to take rigged elections anymore."

He thanked former President Carter, the United States Government, congressmen, and the State Department for doing what he said was an "admirable job" in trying to ensure "the restoration of democracy in Guyana."

Kwayana Opposes Lifting of U.S. Aid Restrictions

FL1610171490 Bridgetown CANA in English 1714 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Oct 16, CANA—Opposition parliamentarian Eusi Kwayana says any lifting of restrictions on economic aid to Guyana by the United States would be "a bit premature" at this stage.

The Working People's Alliance (WPA) co-leader was reacting to remarks here at the weekend by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter that he would seek increased U.S. assistance to Guyana, given current steps by the government to reform the controversial electoral system. Should Carter's efforts prove successful, Guyana would also receive U.S. 600,000 dollars in economic assistance suspended by Congress in a bid to force the goverment to introduce key electoral reforms.

"I think the congressmen who first took that move should satisfy themselves that the procedures (for free and fair elections) exist," Kwayana told CANA. U.S. congressmen, he added, should first talk with people in Guyana and assess what has taken place in the move towards a revised voters list and towards ensuring that voters have proper identification.

As a result of Carter's weekend visit, Kwayana said it appeared that Guyana was "on the final road to a situation in which (the) people will be able to hire and fire a government." However, he said the question of proper identification for voters was a key issue that remained to be settled.

The WPA, he said, would be pressing for the minister of home affairs to be stripped of power to exempt persons from being photographed. The WPA would also be insisting that there should be no separate electoral roll and special voting procedures for members of the security services, he said. Further, the WPA would be insisting on changes in the composition of the elections commission which should have "a neutral and effective chairman acceptable to all sides," Kwayana added. He has submitted a private member's bill to the National Assembly seeking these changes.

Kwayana said it was "a pity" that Carter had to come to Guyana and play a role which the opposition parties themselves had sought to play through a process of national dialogue. President Desmond Hoyte, having invited Carter to mount an observer mission to certify the forthcoming elections, found that Carter was not prepared to become involved if the electoral procedures were not very viable, Kwayana said.

"Mr. Hoyte therefore had to choose between having a preliminary count (of ballots at polling stations), and having the elections certified by the best certifier of the present day, Mr. Carter," he added.

The counting of votes at the place of poll has been a key opposition demand for free and fair elections. The government agreed to this demand after talks with Carter.